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HAIR—Picture No. 1

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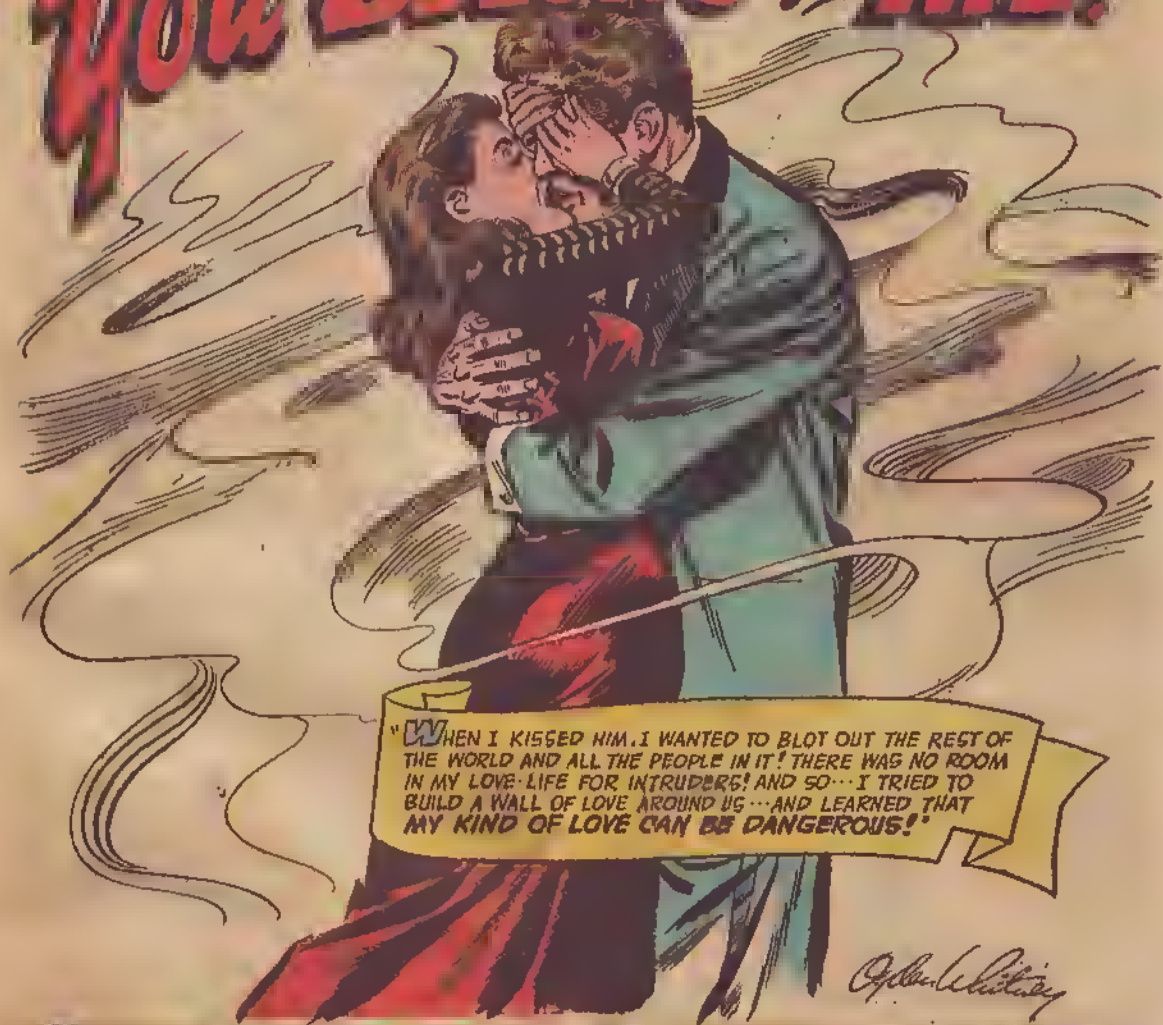
HAIR—Picture No. 2

Hair .....

Eyes .....

Clothing .....

# YOU BELONG to ME!



"WHEN I KISSED HIM, I WANTED TO BLOT OUT THE REST OF THE WORLD AND ALL THE PEOPLE IN IT! THERE WAS NO ROOM IN MY LOVE-LIFE FOR INTRUDERS! AND SO... I TRIED TO BUILD A WALL OF LOVE AROUND US... AND LEARNED THAT MY KIND OF LOVE CAN BE DANGEROUS!"

*Ophele Whitney*

"WHEN I LOOK BACK AND TRY TO FIGURE THINGS OUT, ONE SCENE COMES TO MY MIND! I MIGHT HAVE BEEN FIVE OR SIX YEARS OLD AND MY STEADY BEAU WAS MY ADORED AND ADORING DAD..."

SHE CAN'T HAVE IT! I WON'T LET HER HAVE IT! IT'S MY DOLL, DADDY... IT'S MINE!

OF COURSE IT'S YOURS, BABY! NOW STOP CRYING AND LET'S FIND SOME ICE CREAM, SHALL WE?



"I REMEMBER SOMETHING ELSE, TOO! IT WAS ABOUT TEN YEARS LATER THAT I LAY IN BED ONE NIGHT AND LISTENED TO MOTHER AND DAD QUARRELING... ABOUT ME!"

BUT YOU'RE SPOILING HER, DEAR! JANET'S GOT TO LEARN SOMETIME THAT SHE CAN'T HAVE EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY HER OWN WAY!

NONSENSE, MEG! SHE'S A LITTLE SPOILED... YES... BUT SHE'S GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO LEARN TO TAKE DISAPPOINTMENTS! I LIKE HER AS SHE IS!





"IN SPITE OF MOTHER'S WARNINGS, I FOUND LIFE PERFECT! AFTER A HAPPY, CAREFREE TEEN-AGE WHIRL, I CAME TO REST IN THE ARMS OF MARSH PARKER, ONE OF THE HANDSOMEST, SWEETEST, MOST ELIGIBLE BOYS IN TOWN!"

JANET...BABY...THIS IS FOR KEEPS! WHAT A MISTER AND MISSUS WE'LL BE! WE'LL MAKE HISTORY!

OH, MARSH, I LOVE YOU!

"WE HAD KISSED BEFORE, BUT NEVER LIKE THIS! AND AS I FELT MARSH'S POUNDING HEART AGAINST MINE, I COULD FEEL MY PULSES BEATING... YOU BELONG TO ME... YOU BELONG TO ME!"

"MARSH AND I HAD BEEN ENGAGED FOR A FEW WEEKS WHEN I FIRST BEGAN TO FEEL A GNAWING UNCERTAINTY. OF COURSE, I SAW HIM OFTEN... AT LEAST THREE TIMES A WEEK! BUT WHAT OF THE TIMES WHEN WE WERE SEPARATED, I WONDERED? WHERE WAS HE? WITH WHOM? ONE NIGHT..."

ARTHUR, BE REALISTIC! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH A COMPLETE TROUSSEAU COSTS? WHY, IT'S SIMPLY...

WHAT IS HE DOING NOW? IS HE ALONE... OR WITH SOMEONE ELSE? SHALL I CALL HIM AND FIND OUT?

"I DIDN'T CALL HIM THAT NIGHT... BUT THAT GNAWING UNCERTAINTY BEGAN TO MOUNT WITHIN ME! ONE AFTERNOON, WHEN MARSH AND I WERE ON A SHOPPING TRIP, HE RAN INTO LEILA COOMBS! SHE HAD BEEN ONE OF MARSH'S GIRL FRIENDS, BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL..."

MARSH PARKER, I'M MAD AT YOU! YOU WENT AND GOT ENGAGED WITHOUT EVEN GIVING ME A CHANCE!

YOU NEVER HAD A CHANCE, LEILA... SO WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP AND PRACTICE KNITTING!

"I TURNED AND WALKED AWAY WITHOUT GIVING HER A CHANCE TO CATCH HER BREATH! I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE FLIRTING WITH MARSH, EVEN IF IT WAS HARMLESS! BUT MARSH WAS A LITTLE UPSET..."

HONEY, THAT WAS A LOW, UNDER-HANDED TRICK! LEILA WAS ONLY KIDDING!

I DON'T LIKE JOKES LIKE THAT, MARSH! FROM NOW ON, THERE'S ONLY ONE GIRL IN YOUR LIFE... AND IT'S NOT LEILA!

"I SPOKE LIGHTLY, BUT THERE WAS A STRONG EMOTIONAL DRIVE BEHIND MY WORDS! THAT GNAWING UNCERTAINTY I HAD BEEN FEELING... I KNEW THE NAME FOR IT THEN! IT WAS... JEALOUSY!"

I CAN'T BEAR TO SHARE HIM WITH ANYONE... ANYONE! AND I WON'T!

"THE FEELING GREW! I TRIED TO SUPPRESS IT, BUT IT WAS WITH ME ALWAYS! I HATED TO THINK OF MARSH IN HIS OFFICE, ENGROSS-ED IN HIS WORK, FORGETTING ABOUT ME FOR HOURS AT A TIME! I STARTED TO PHONE HIM THERE, AT LEAST ONCE A DAY..."

LOOK, BABY, I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A CONFERENCE RIGHT NOW ... CAN I CALL YOU BACK? SURE I DO, BABY! YOU **KNOW** I DO!



"THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE THAT WAS BEGINNING TO BOTHER ME... **TUESDAY NIGHTS!** FOR YEARS, MARSH HAD BEEN MEETING A GROUP OF OLD SCHOOL FRIENDS EVERY TUESDAY! IT WAS STRICTLY AN ALL-MALE AFFAIR, BUT I RESENTED IT! I FELT SHUT OUT... EXCLUDED..."

MARSH... COULDN'T YOU... JUST **ONCE** ... **NOT GOZ** STAY HERE WITH ME INSTEAD!

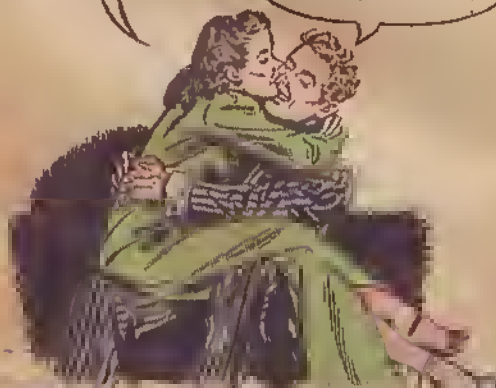
GOSH, BABY, THE GUYS EXPECT ME AND I DON'T LIKE TO...



"MARSH DIDN'T **NEED** THAT OLD GANG... NOW THAT HE HAD ME! I SNUGGLED CLOSE TO HIM..."

WHO'S MORE IMPORTANT, DARLING... THAT SILLY CROWD OF YOURS OR ... **ME?**

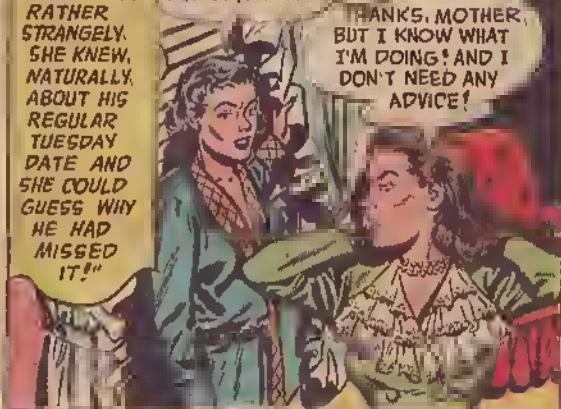
**WHAT** A FOOLISH QUESTION! HAVE YOU LOOKED AT YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR LATELY, BEAUTIFUL?



**WHEN** MARSH LEFT THAT NIGHT, MOTHER LOOKED AT ME RATHER STRANGELY. SHE KNEW, NATURALLY, ABOUT HIS REGULAR TUESDAY DATE AND SHE COULD GUESS WHY HE HAD MISSED IT!"

JANET, DARLING, DID YOU KEEP MARSHALL FROM HIS APPOINTMENT? I'M AFRAID YOU'RE INCLINED TO BE A LITTLE... WELL... **SELFISH** ABOUT MARSH, BABY!

THANKS, MOTHER, BUT I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! AND I DON'T NEED ANY ADVICE!



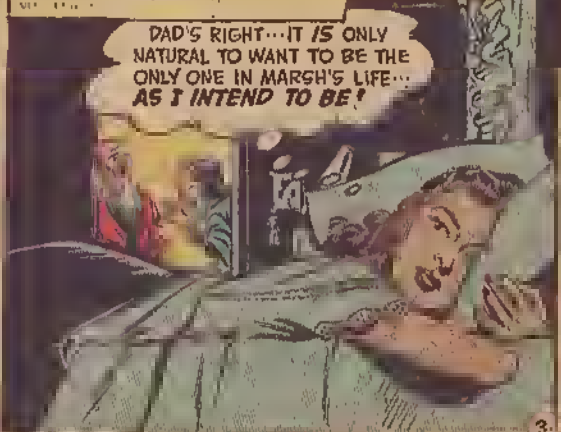
MARSH IS ALL THAT MATTERS TO ME! I WANT TO BE WITH HIM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE! IS THERE ANYTHING **WRONG** IN THAT... **IS THERE?**

THERE, THERE, BABY, CALM DOWN! OF **COURSE** THERE ISN'T!



"IN MY BEDROOM, I LAY WIDE-AWAKE, LISTENING AS MOTHER REPEATED TO DAD WHAT SHE HAD SAID YEARS AGO... THAT I WAS SPOILED, TOO POSSESSIVE! DAD, THE OLD DEAR, LAUGHED IT OFF! IT WAS ONLY NATURAL, HE SAID, IN THE DARK, I SMILED..."

DAD'S RIGHT... IT **IS** ONLY NATURAL TO WANT TO BE THE ONLY ONE IN MARSH'S LIFE... AS I INTEND TO BE!





"IT WAS A FEW DAYS LATER THAT I STARTED TO PLAN OUR ENGAGEMENT PARTY! I HAD DRAWN UP A LIST OF GUESTS TO BE ASKED, WHEN MARSH PRODUCED A LIST OF HIS OWN... A LIST OF HIS FRIENDS AND RELATIVES! I FELT A SUDDEN PANG OF JEALOUSY..."

OH, MARSH, DO WE HAVE TO HAVE THEM THIS TIME? YOU KNOW HOW UNHAPPY IT MAKES ME TO MEET STRANGERS!

JANET, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! THESE ARE MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY!



"FROM MARSH'S TONE, I REALIZED THAT I HAD VENTURED TOO FAR! ALL RIGHT, THEN! I WOULD INVITE THEM! I FOUGHT DOWN THE ENMITY I FELT FOR THESE INTRUDERS AS I TOOK MARSH'S LIST..."

I'M SORRY, DARLING, YOU'RE RIGHT! I MUST BE A LITTLE HYSTERICAL WITH ALL THIS PLANNING AND EXCITEMENT!

SKIP IT, HONEY! LET'S NOT GIVE IT ANOTHER THOUGHT!



"I COULD THINK OF NOTHING ELSE FROM THAT MOMENT UNTIL THE DAY OF THE PARTY! ALL THOSE PEOPLE HAD KNOWN MARSH SINCE HE WAS A BABY... HAD SPECIAL STORIES ABOUT HIM, NO DOUBT, AND LITTLE PET NAMES AND PERSONAL ANECDOTES! MY FIANCE' AS MOTHER HELPED ME DRESS..."

YOU LOOK LOVELY, DEAR! I'M SURE MARSH'S PEOPLE WILL BE WILD ABOUT YOU! IT'S IMPORTANT TO GET ALONG WELL WITH YOUR HUSBAND'S FAMILY, YOU KNOW!

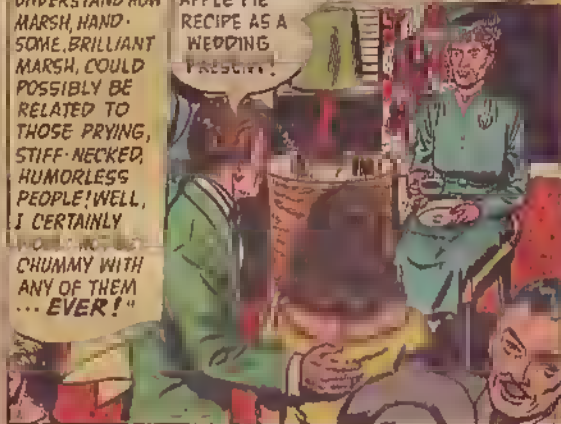
WHO CARES WHAT THEY THINK? WE'LL NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN ANYHOW!



"THEY ALL CAME... EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM! I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW MARSH, HANDSOME, BRILLIANT MARSH, COULD POSSIBLY BE RELATED TO THOSE PRYING, STIFF-NECKED, HUMORLESS PEOPLE! WELL, I CERTAINLY DON'T GET ALONG CHUMMY WITH ANY OF THEM... EVER!"

AUNT SARAH, THIS IS JANET! I PROMISED HER THAT YOU'D GIVE US YOUR SECRET APPLE PIE RECIPE AS A WEDDING PRESENT!

HMMM... I MIGHT, AT THAT! THAT'S A VERY PRETTY GIRL YOU'VE GOT THERE, MARSHALL!



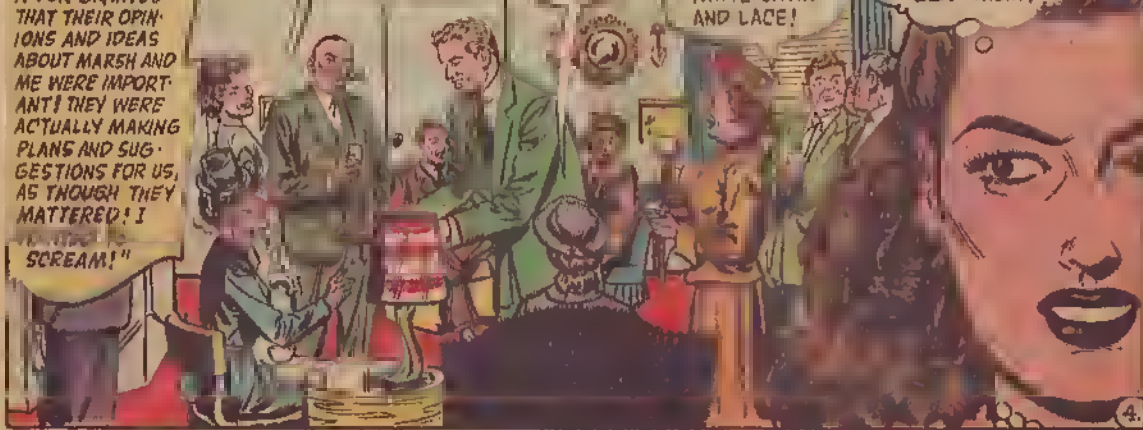
"TO MY HORROR, THESE PEOPLE, THESE STRANGERS, SEEMED TO TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT THEIR OPINIONS AND IDEAS ABOUT MARSH AND ME WERE IMPORTANT! THEY WERE ACTUALLY MAKING PLANS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR US, AS THOUGH THEY MATTERED! I SCREAM!"

I HOPE YOU'RE PLANNING A BIG CHURCH WEDDING! I LOVE 'EM!

A SMALLER WEDDING AT HOME WOULD BE PRETTY, TOO!

OH, I'M WITH AUNT SARAH! NOTHING LIKE A BIG WEDDING WITH LOTS OF WHITE SATIN AND LACE!

I CAN'T BEAR IT! HOW DARE THEY... HOW DARE THEY INTERFERE IN MY LIFE! I WON'T LET THEM!





"I WAS MARRYING MARSH. NOT HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS... AND I WAS JEALOUS AND ANGRY ENOUGH TO LET THEM KNOW IT!"

IT'S VERY SWEET AND GENEROUS OF YOU TO BE SO HELPFUL, BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND, MARSH AND I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE OUR OWN PLANS... **ALONE!** THANKS A LOT... BUT YOU'RE ALL WASTING YOUR TIME!

**NO ONE SAID A WORD!** THEN, MARSH'S MOTHER GOT UP AND SMILED SORT OF WEAKLY! I SUPPOSE THE SHOCK WAS TOO MUCH FOR HER, BECAUSE SHE HAD A GOOD DEAL OF TROUBLE IN SAYING THE WORDS..."

IT...IT'S GOTTEN RATHER LATE, HASN'T IT? I... THINK IT'S TIME WE ALL WENT!

WELL... IF YOU CAN'T STAY, I WON'T TRY TO PERSUADE YOU!



"I COULD SENSE THAT MARSH WAS DISTURBED, BUT I WAS CONFIDENT THAT I COULD WIN HIM OVER! BUT..."

JANET, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU... **IN PRIVATE!**

"I'D NEVER SEEN MARSH ACT THAT WAY BEFORE! I HAD INSULTED HIS FAMILY, HE SAID! I TRIED TO MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND..."

BUT, DARLING, WE DON'T NEED THOSE PEOPLE! THEY'LL JUST CLUTTER UP OUR LIVES...

SHUT UP, JANET! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THAT!



"HE WAS SHOUTING AT ME, SAYING THINGS THAT I COULDN'T BELIEVE! HE SAID I WAS SPOILED, SELFISH... THAT I HAD TRIED TO CUT HIM OFF FROM PEOPLE AND THINGS HE LIKED..."

MARSH, STOP SAYING THOSE THINGS! YOU **KNOW** I LOVE YOU!

**LOVE! THAT'S A LAUGH!** YOU WANT TO OWN ME, AS IF I WERE A TOY! YOU'D **SMOTHER** ME WITH YOUR KIND OF LOVE... OR **ENGULF** ME, LIKE A MAN-EATING SHARK!

"HE WENT AWAY! HE WAS **GLAD** TO GO, TO FREE HIMSELF OF MY VICIOUS, ALL-DESTROYING JEALOUSY! AND I, SHOCKED INTO VIOLENT PANIC, THREW MYSELF ACROSS MY BED, SOBBS TEARING FROM MY THROAT..."

HE'S GONE... HE'S GONE... HE'S GONE...

DON'T CRY, BABY, HE'LL BE BACK! LOVERS DO HAVE QUARRELS, YOU KNOW!

THIS WAS **NOT** JUST "A LOVERS' QUARREL", ARTHUR!





"**WEEKS** PASSED AND MARSH DID NOT COME BACK! I CRIED UNTIL THERE WERE NO TEARS LEFT! I WAS ASHAMED TO GO OUT, TO BE CALLED THE GIRL WHO WAS JILTED!"

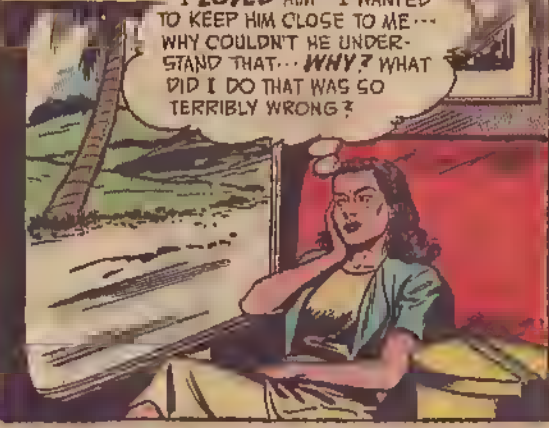
FEELING BETTER THESE DAYS, BABY? HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A NICE CRUISE OR A RESORT VACATION TO CHEER YOU UP?

THIS TIME, ARTHUR, LET ME DECIDE! I WANT JANET TO VISIT MY OLD FRIEND, EMILY HARRIS, IN CALIFORNIA! I'LL WRITE HER TONIGHT!



"ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR ME! I WAS TO STAY WITH EMILY HARRIS, WHO HAD GONE TO SCHOOL WITH MOTHER AND WAS NOW A WELL-KNOWN SCREEN-WRITER! BUT I HAD NO INTEREST IN THE FUTURE... ONLY IN THE PAST!"

I LOVED HIM... I WANTED TO KEEP HIM CLOSE TO ME... WHY COULDN'T HE UNDERSTAND THAT... WHY? WHAT DID I DO THAT WAS SO TERRIBLY WRONG?



EMILY HARRIS MET ME AT THE STATION AND DROVE ME TO HER HOUSE! IT WAS QUIET AND COMFORTABLE, RATHER LIKE ITS OWNER. SHE ASKED ME TO CALL HER 'EM', AND WAS FRIENDLY WITHOUT BEING PRYING...

I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND A BIT OF COMPANY, JANET! I'VE ANOTHER HOUSE GUEST STAYING HERE!

WE'LL JUST KEEP OUT OF EACH OTHER'S WAY, EM! ALL I ASK IS PEACEFUL SILENCE!



"THE MOMENT I SAW EM'S OTHER HOUSE GUEST, I REGRETTED NOT HAVING CHANGED INTO MY PINK DRESS OR BRUSHED MY HAIR! FOR MY HEART, WHICH HAD BEEN A HEAVY STONE FOR SO LONG, BEGAN TO RACE."

JANET, THIS IS MY NEPHEW, COLIN BROOKS! HE TELLS ME HE'S BEEN BORED STIFF HERE BECAUSE I'M A LAZY HOSTESS!

I TAKE IT ALL BACK, AUNT EM! THINGS HAVE STARTED PERCOLATING... SUDDENLY!

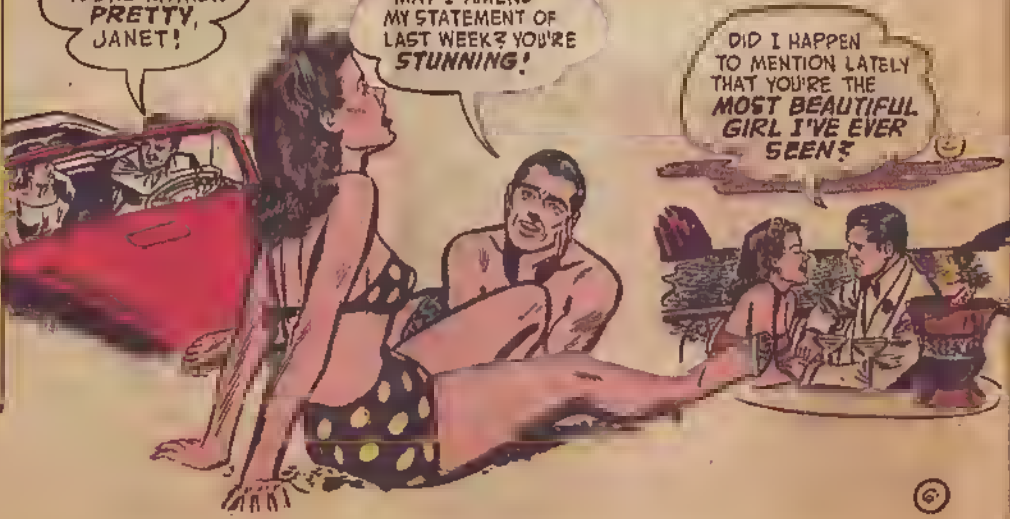


"IT WASN'T VANITY OR FLIRTATIOUSNESS THAT MADE MY EYES SPARKLE AGAIN, THAT GAVE ME A GLOWING, EXHILARATED FEELING! IT WAS COLIN, SO ATTRACTIVE, SO WONDERFULLY MASCULINE AND VITAL, WHO TURNED CALIFORNIA INTO A FAIRYLAND FOR ME! HE TOOK ME EVERYWHERE..."

YOU KNOW... YOU'RE RATHER PRETTY, JANET!

MAY I AMEND MY STATEMENT OF LAST WEEK? YOU'RE STUNNING!

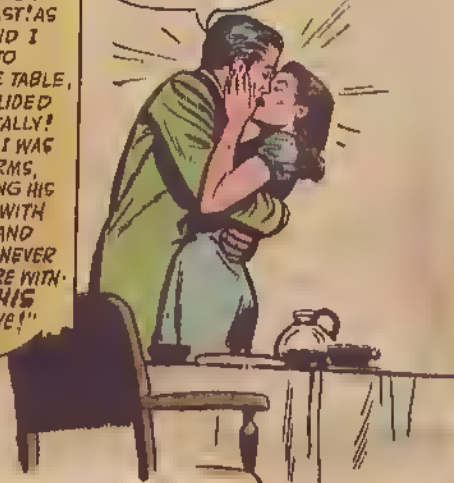
DID I HAPPEN TO MENTION LATELY THAT YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL I'VE EVER SEEN?





"IT HAPPENED ONE MORNING, RIGHT AFTER BREAKFAST! AS COLIN AND I GOT UP TO LEAVE THE TABLE, WE COLLIDED ACCIDENTALLY! AND THEN I WAS IN HIS ARMS, RETURNING HIS KISSES WITH A FIRE AND ARDOR I NEVER KNEW WERE WITHIN ME! **THIS WAS LOVE!**"

DARLING...  
DARLING...



"MARCH WAS A SHADON IN THE PAST, A SWEET, BUT RATHER UNIMPORTANT MEMORY! COLIN MADE MY HEAD SPIN AND MY HEART CONTRADT WITH FEELING! SUDDENLY, A POLITE LITTLE COUGH MADE US BOTH JUMP..."

DON'T TELL ME, KIDS, LET ME GUESS... IT'S A ROMANCE!

YOU'RE WRONG, AUNT EM... IT'S LOVE! DO YOU MIND IF I HUM "THE WEDDING MARCH"?



"I LOVED HIM SO MUCH THAT IT HURT SOMETIMES! I WANTED HIM TO THINK HIGHLY OF ME, TO BE PROUD OF THE THINGS I DID AND THE WAY I LOOKED! FOR TO ME, COLIN WAS PERFECT... UNTIL..."

BOO! ARE YOU TRYING TO STEAL AWAY FROM ME... UNSEEN?

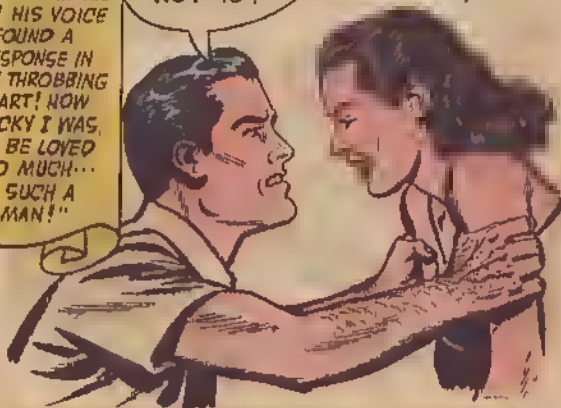
IF YOU MUST KNOW... YES! I'VE AN APPOINTMENT AT THE BEAUTY SALON, AND IT'S ALL FOR YOUR BENEFIT!



"A CHANGE CAME OVER HIS FACE AS HE PULLED ME CLOSER, AND THE HUGKINESS IN HIS VOICE FOUND A RESPONSE IN MY THROBBING HEART! HOW LUCKY I WAS, TO BE LOVED SO MUCH... BY SUCH A MAN!"

I DON'T LIKE ANYTHING THAT TAKES YOU AWAY FROM ME! MUST YOU GO, DARLING... EVEN IF I ASK YOU NOT TO?

OF COURSE NOT, SILLY! I'LL JUST PHONE AND CANCEL THE APPOINTMENT!



"EM WAS AS PLEASED AND HAPPY AS WE WERE, AND GAVE A GLAMOROUS PARTY IN OUR HONOR! IT WAS ALL AN EXCITING DREAM, UNTIL..."

MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE, MISS HARDY?

WHY, I'D LOVE...

DON'T THINK ME RUDE... BUT NOTHING DOING! SHE'S MY GIRL!



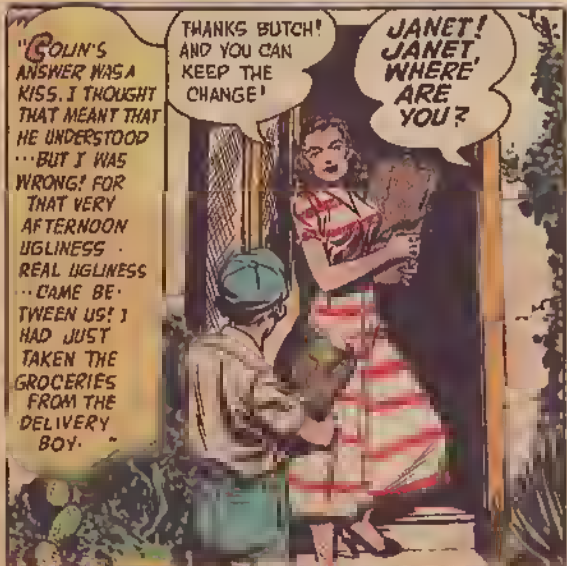
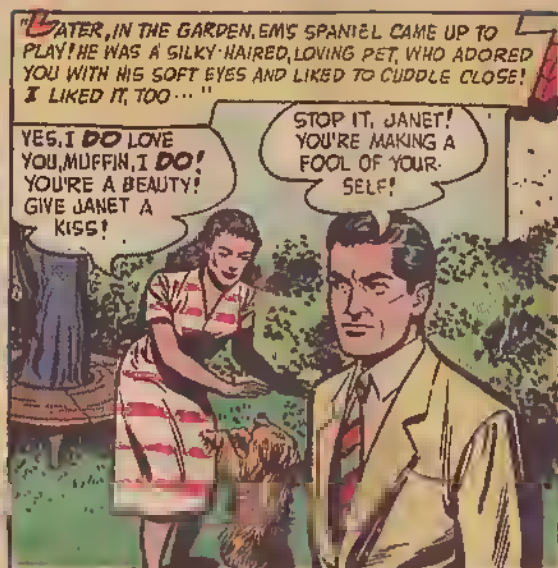
"COLIN DREW ME INTO THE GARDEN AND KISSED ME UNTIL I REELED! I WAS SO HAPPY TO BE WITH HIM, THAT THE FULL MEANING OF HIS WORDS DID NOT STRIKE ME... UNTIL LATER!"

I'M A FUNNY KIND OF GUY, DARLING! I WANT YOU TO MYSELF WITH NO INTERFERENCE! YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?

OF COURSE, I DO! IT'S PERFECTLY NATURAL!





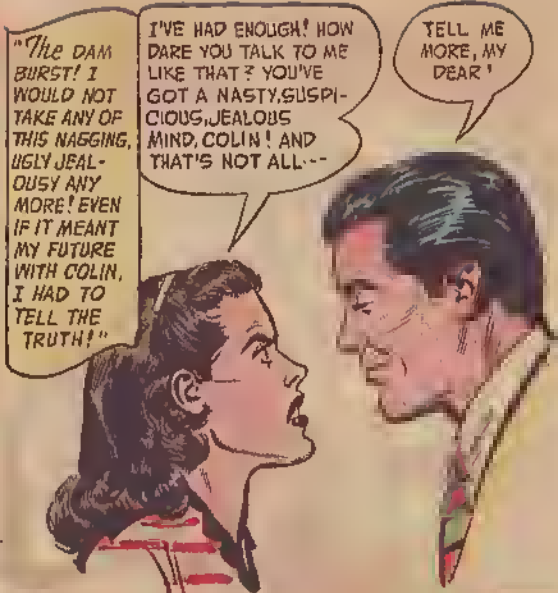






DARLING, YOU'RE BEING UNFAIR! IT WAS THE DELIVERY BOY... SEE? HERE ARE THE GROCERIES HE BROUGHT!

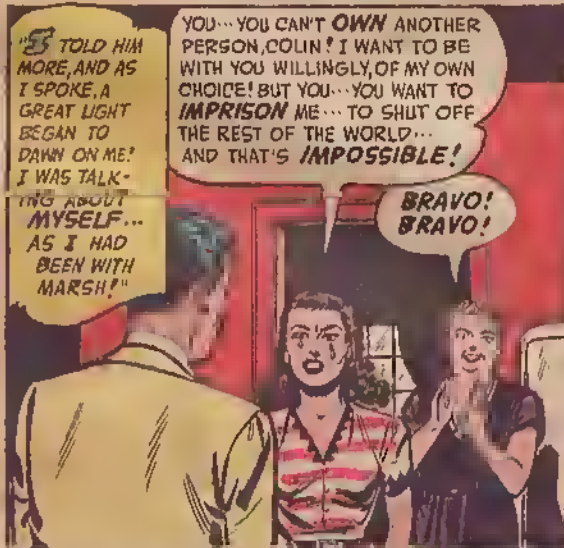
WHY DIDN'T AUNT EM TAKE THE GROCERIES? SHE USUALLY DOES! I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!



"THE DAM BURST! I WOULD NOT TAKE ANY OF THIS NAGGING, UGLY JEALOUSY ANY MORE! EVEN IF IT MEANT MY FUTURE WITH COLIN, I HAD TO TELL THE TRUTH!"

I'VE HAD ENOUGH! HOW DARE YOU TALK TO ME LIKE THAT? YOU'VE GOT A NASTY, SUSPICIOUS, JEALOUS MIND, COLIN! AND THAT'S NOT ALL--

TELL ME MORE, MY DEAR!



"I TOLD HIM MORE, AND AS I SPOKE, A GREAT LIGHT BEGAN TO DAWN ON ME! I WAS TALKING ABOUT MYSELF... AS I HAD BEEN WITH MARSH!"

YOU... YOU CAN'T **OWN** ANOTHER PERSON, COLIN! I WANT TO BE WITH YOU WILLINGLY, OF MY OWN CHOICE! BUT YOU... YOU WANT TO **IMPRISON** ME... TO SHUT OFF THE REST OF THE WORLD... AND THAT'S **IMPOSSIBLE!**

**BRAVO! BRAVO!**



"CRYING BITTERLY, I TRIED TO LEAVE... BUT COLIN WOULDN'T LET ME! INSTEAD, HE CAUGHT ME IN HIS ARMS AND HELD ME CLOSE, TENDERLY, GENTLY, LETTING ME SOB MY HEART OUT ON HIS SHOULDER! WHEN HE SPOKE, I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EARS..."

I TOLD YOU THIS GIRL WAS ALL RIGHT, AUNT EM! DON'T CRY ANY MORE, BABY! YOU'RE **RIGHT...** AND I LOVE YOU!

I'M HAPPY... FOR BOTH OF YOU!



YOUR MOTHER WROTE ME ABOUT YOUR... YOUR ENGAGEMENT, JANET! AND SHE ASKED ME TO HELP YOU, IF I COULD! BUT YOU HELPED **YOURSELF...** AND THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO LEARN!



IT HAD BEEN A PLOT... NOT AGAINST ME... BUT FOR ME! AS COLIN KISSED ME, I KNEW A RELEASE AND A HAPPINESS I HAD NEVER FELT BEFORE! FOR WE WERE TWO PEOPLE IN LOVE... **FREELY... WILLINGLY... UNSELFISHLY... IN LOVE!**

THE END!



# HOW HE PROPOSED

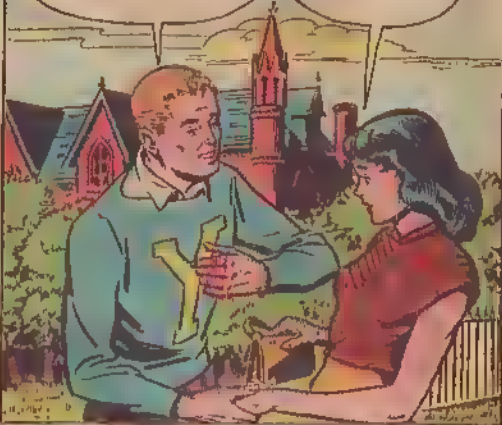
STRANGE AND VARIOUS ARE THE MANY WAYS FOR A MAN TO POP THE QUESTION-- BUT NONE STRANGER THAN THIS PROPOSAL, TOLD US BY 19-YEAR OLD MARY GAINES OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT...

I WAS WALKING ALONG NEAR THE CAMPUS OF YALE UNIVERSITY ONE DAY, NOT FAR FROM MY HOME, WHEN A TOTAL STRANGER CAME UP TO ME AND SEIZED MY HAND...



I LOVE YOU-- WILL YOU MARRY ME?

YOU--YOU MUST BE MAD!



DESPERATELY, I LOOKED AROUND FOR HELP-- AND MY ATTENTION WAS CAUGHT BY A GROUP OF COLLEGE YOUTHS STANDING SOME DISTANCE AWAY AND GRINNING AT ME! THEN, WHEN I SAW THE PADDLES IN THEIR HANDS, MY FEAR BEGAN TO VANISH!

"REALIZING THAT THE POOR FELLOW HAD PROPOSED ONLY TO KEEP FROM BEING PADDLED BY HIS FRAT BROTHERS, I DECIDED TO PLAY ALONG WITH THE GAG!"

I TRIED TO DISMISS THE INCIDENT FROM MY MIND, BUT I COULDN'T SEEM TO FORGET THE SMILING, HANDSOME FACE OF THE BOY WHO HAD PROPOSED TO ME-- OR THE STRANGE, CRYPTIC REMARK HE'D MADE JUST BEFORE HE LEFT! THEN, WHILE WATCHING THE YALE FOOTBALL TEAM PRACTICING ONE DAY...

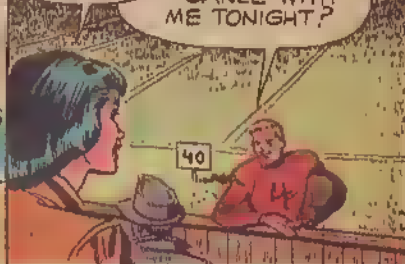
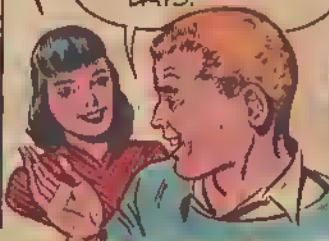
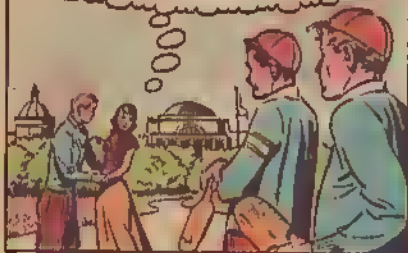
THOSE PADDLES ARE USED FOR FRATERNITY INITIATIONS-- AND SINCE THEY ARE WATCHING US, THIS MUST BE PART OF THE INITIATION STUNT!

WHY, OF COURSE I'LL MARRY YOU!

SWELL-- I'M GOING TO HOLD YOU TO THAT PROMISE ONE OF THESE DAYS!

OH-- YOU... YOU'RE THE FELLOW WHO PROPOSED TO ME THAT DAY!

YUP-- AND I KNEW FATE WOULD BRING US TOGETHER AGAIN SOMEHOW! HOW ABOUT COMING TO THE FOOTBALL RALLY DANCE WITH ME TONIGHT?

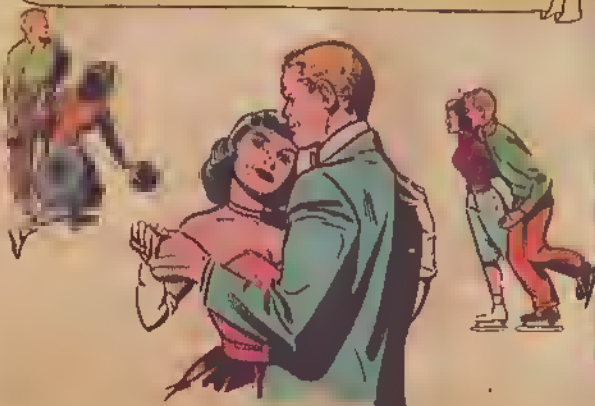


I DATED HOWARD CARTER THAT NIGHT AND MANY NIGHTS AFTER THAT... UNTIL I KNEW I WAS VIOLENTLY IN LOVE WITH HIM!

AND THEN, ONE NIGHT...

DARLING, I DO LOVE YOU-- AND THIS ISN'T JUST AN INITIATION GAG! HOW ABOUT KEEPING THAT PROMISE YOU MADE WHEN I PROPOSED TO YOU THAT FIRST DAY WE MET?

OH, YES, SWEET-HEART-- YES!



WHEN YOUR DREAM MAN FINALLY POPS THE QUESTION TO YOU, READER, WRITE AND TELL US HOW HE PROPOSED, WON'T YOU?



# The **LIFE** of the Party

**LUSCIOUS!  
TEMPTING!  
APPEALING!**



TOOTSIE ROLL, too, is  
the life of every party...for where-  
ever Young America gathers...its  
popularity is acclaimed by all!

**THE MOST POPULAR CANDY ROLL FOR GENERATIONS**



# Reluctant LOVE

AS THE TRAIN pounded westward, Jinny's head seemed to pound in rhythm with the wheels. She was tired, of course, or how could she feel so unhappy? Why was she so reluctant to see the passing miles, to know that every instant was bringing her closer to Elmburg...and Burton?

Burton was Jinny's fiancé. Although they had been engaged for three full years, Jinny could still remember clearly the proposal. Burton had said, "I judge that you are the right type of girl for me and I hope I can make my family see it that way. They're very choosy, especially about me. Anyhow, we needn't worry about it now, since it won't be practical for us to get married till I get a desk in the manager's office."

He had then proceeded to describe his job, omitting not one little detail, relishing the sound of his own voice as he carefully explained the way the books were kept and how petty cash had come to be entrusted to him.

Even then, Jinny had wondered faintly how she had come to accept him. She was all alone, with not one relative to go to, to confide in. When her parents had died, she had worked hard to take care of herself and Burton seemed so solid! He represented the security of a house of her own and a real position in society. She would be Mrs. Burton Finley!

But now, as the train sped along the rails, bringing her to Elmburg in answer to Burton's neat, well-phrased letter, Jinny found that her fatigue gave her a new clarity. Burton was stuffy! He was smug, overly cautious, and altogether dull. He wasn't solid... he was stolid!

Jinny would have given anything

to acquire a sudden, brisk spurt of courage. She would just march herself right off the train at the next stop and wire Burton that she had changed her mind. But she couldn't! Instead, seeking to forget the whole thing, she closed her eyes and slept.

As she slept, her head sank lower and lower, coming to rest finally on the shoulder of the young man who was sitting next to her. He was dark and handsome, and he noted with interest the lovely girl who seemed so weary and disturbed. Instead of waking her, he carefully put his arm around her shoulders to make her more comfortable, and tucked her head into the bend of his neck.

And still Jinny slept on, smiling a little in her sleep. The train started to slow down, and a conductor, giving full play to his baritone voice, shouted, "Elmburg! Elmburg!"

With a frightened start, Jinny awoke. And as she lifted her head, her lips met those of the stranger, her seat companion... met...and clung! It was a devastating kiss, exciting and wonderful! Jinny, her eyes wide, drew back and stared at the man she had just kissed.

"I saw that!" an indignant voice bellowed. "You saw it, too, didn't you, mother? It...it's an outrage!" It had been a devastating kiss, for Burton had seen it happen! "You needn't bother getting off the train!" he barked.

"I wasn't intending to!" Jinny answered calmly.

"No," she couldn't get off here," said the stranger next to her. "I wouldn't permit it! She can't walk out on her future, you know!"



# QUEEN of HEARTS

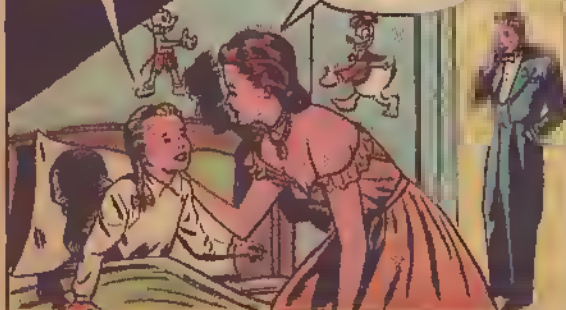


"MY LOVE STORY IS STRANGE. THERE ARE NOT MANY LIKE IT. FOR ALL THROUGH LIFE, I HAD **ONE RIVAL** IN LOVE... JUST ONE! CHARMING, GLAMOROUS, IRRESISTIBLE, SHE COLLECTED MEN AS THOUGH THEY WERE TROPHIES OF VICTORY! AND THIS WOMAN ALMOST CONVINCED ME THAT I WOULD NEVER CAPTURE A MAN'S HEART! NOW COULD I... WHEN SHE HAD THEM ALL?"

"TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED TO ME, YOU MUST KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT MY FAMILY... AND THERE'S LITTLE TO TELL! BY THE TIME I WAS THREE, DAD WAS A SHADY MEMORY... FOR MY MOTHER WAS THE MUCH-MARRIED, MUCH-DIVORCED **BIBI OLIVER!**"

PRETTY MOMMY... PRETTY...

STOP IT, MELISSA, YOU'LL CRUSH MY DRESS! GO TO SLEEP AT ONCE! I'M READY TO GO, IF YOU ARE, VINCENT!



"IT WAS A REAL PROBLEM TO BIBI AS I GREW OLDER! THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR A GROWING CHILD IN HER LIFE, AND SO I WAS SENT TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS, CAMPS... ANYTHING TO KEEP ME FROM UNDER HER FEET!"

GOODBYE, MELISSA! BE A GOOD GIRL! I'LL COME AND SEE YOU... IF I CAN!

PLEASE TRY TO COME ON VISITING DAY, MOTH... BIBI! ALL THE **OTHER** MOTHERS WILL BE THERE... PLEASE!





"SHE NEVER CAME TO SEE ME, OF COURSE! AND, THOUGH I WROTE TO HER TWICE A WEEK, SHE NEVER REPLIED!"

WE MISS YOU VERY MUCH, BUT HOPE YOU ARE GROWING TALL AND STRONG...

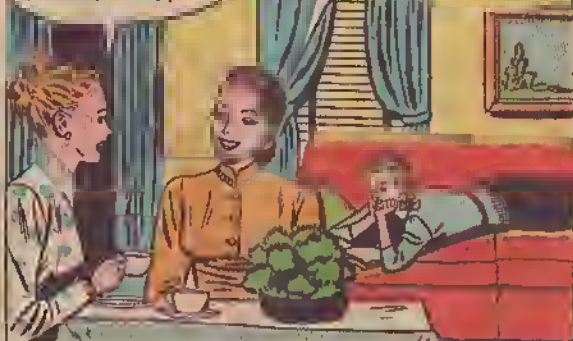
WHEN YOU COME HOME, WE WILL BUY YOU THE PUPPY YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED...



"MUCH AS BIBI HATED IT, I KEPT GROWING UP! HER FRIENDS BEGAN TO MAKE LITTLE REMARKS THAT INFURIATED HER..."

GOODNESS, BIBI, MELISSA WILL BE STEPPING INTO YOUR SHOES ONE OF THESE DAYS AND WOWING THE BOYS!

NONSENSE, GLORIA! WHY, SHE'S JUST A CHILD... A BABY!



"AFTER THAT, SHE MADE SURE TO KEEP ME OUT OF THE WAY! I WAS LIKE A SMALL GHOST, SEEING BUT UNSEEN, HAUNTING MY OWN HOUSE!"

BIBI, DON'T YOU HAVE A DAUGHTER SOMEWHERE? I'VE NEVER MET HER!

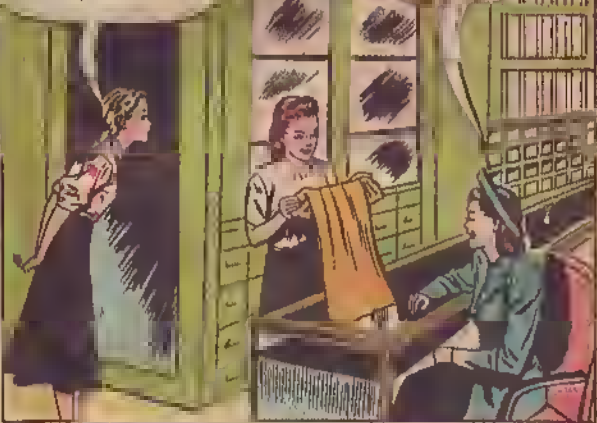
OH, MELISSA... SHE'S JUST AN INFANT, REALLY! MAY I HAVE A LIGHT, DARLING?



"BY THE TIME I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, I REALIZED THAT BIBI WAS TRYING TO KEEP ME A BABY... SO THAT SHE WOULD APPEAR YOUNGER, MORE DESIRABLE!"

BUT, BIBI, THE OTHER GIRLS WILL LAUGH AT ME! PLEASE, CAN'T I HAVE A PLAID SKIRT AND A FUZZY SWEATER?

BIBI KNOWS BEST, DARLING! YOU LOOK PERFECTLY SWEET IN THAT LITTLE DRESS!



"THEY DID LAUGH AT ME! I WAS SO DIFFERENT-LOOKING, YOU SEE!"

GET A LOAD OF THAT GOON, MELISSA CORWIN! HOW'D YOU LIKE TO CART HER TO THE PROM?

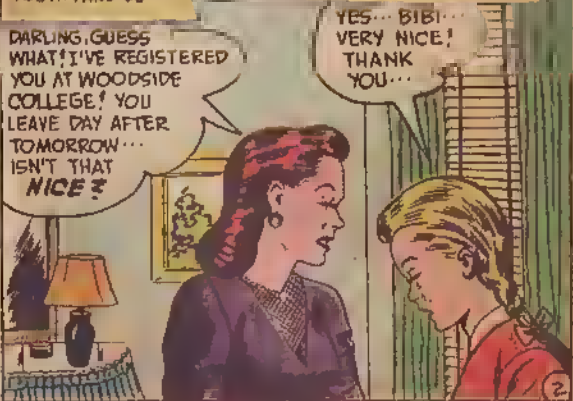
SSSH... SHE'LL HEAR YOU!



"AFTER GRADUATION, I HOPED BIBI WOULD GIVE ME A CHANCE! I WAS BRIGHT, HAD MADE GOOD GRADES... COULD BE A DAUGHTER TO BE PROUD OF! BUT BIBI WOULD HAVE NONE OF ME! THE OLDER I GOT, THE MORE I THREATENED HER YOUTH! AND SO..."

DARLING, GUESS WHAT! I'VE REGISTERED YOU AT WOODSIDE COLLEGE! YOU LEAVE DAY AFTER TOMORROW... ISN'T THAT NICE?

YES... BIBI... VERY NICE! THANK YOU...

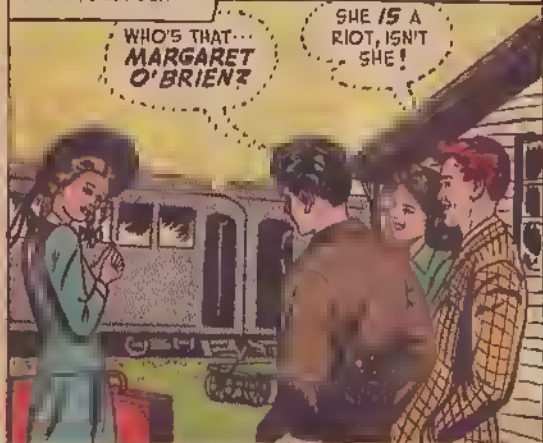




"WHAT A NIGHTMARE IT WAS--- THE MOMENT I STEPPED OFF ONTO THE COLLEGE STATION! I FELT LIKE A FREAK, MY FACE BARE OF MAKEUP, THOSE DETESTABLE BRAIDS, THAT SHORT, SILLY COAT---"

WHO'S THAT...  
**MARGARET O'BRIEN?**

SHE IS A  
RIOT, ISN'T  
SHE!



"IN THE DORM, I UNPACKED UNDER THE CURIOUS STARES OF MY ROOMMATES! THEY HAD SMART CLOTHES, PERFUMES, COSMETICS! I HAD A HALF-DOZEN PLAIN WOOL JUMPERS AND SOME TAILORED SHIRTS! THEY DIDN'T LAUGH, THOUGH..."

LET'S GET ACQUAINTED,  
FIRST THING! I'M  
RONNIE MARWICK!

MY NAME'S  
MARCIA  
RODNEY!



"THEY WERE POLITE TO ME, BUT NO MORE! I GUESS THEY FOUND IT HARD TO FIND THINGS TO SAY TO ME, FOR I WAS DIFFERENT! BUT ONE DAY..."

DO MY EYES DECEIVE  
ME, OR IS THAT A  
**CHECK?**

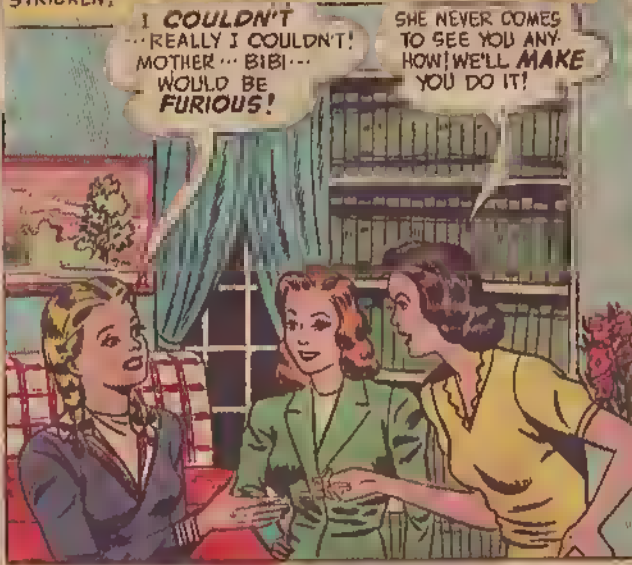
IT'S MY  
ALLOWANCE  
FROM  
HOME!



"RONNIE AND MARCIA EXCHANGED GLANCES! THEN, PONCING ON ME, THEY SUGGESTED A PLAN SO DARING, THAT I WAS PANIC-STRICKEN!"

I COULDN'T  
...REALLY I COULDN'T!  
MOTHER ... BIBI...  
WOULD BE  
**FURIOUS!**

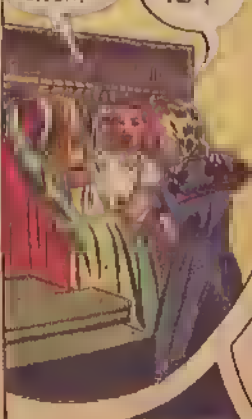
SHE NEVER COMES  
TO SEE YOU ANY.  
HOW! WE'LL **MAKE**  
YOU DO IT!



"THIS WAS THE MOST DANGEROUS, FASCINATING ADVENTURE OF MY LIFE! I KNEW THAT I WAS DEFYING BIBI, TRYING MY OWN WINGS FOR THE FIRST TIME! SOMETHING STUPID... AS A RESULT OF ALL THIS ...IT MUST!"

NOW THIS  
IS MORE YOUR  
TYPE,  
LISSA!

IT--  
**IS?**



N---NOW, DON'T  
BE NERVOUS, LISSA!  
THIS MAN CUTS HAIR  
ALL THE TIME!

STOP TWITCHING!  
I WANT TO GET  
THIS LIPSTICK  
OUTLINE STRAIGHT!

GIVE HER  
A LITTLE  
MASCARA,  
TOO!





"WHEN I SAW MYSELF, I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT! I KNEW, WITHOUT ANY PRIDE OR VANITY, THAT I WAS **LOVELY!**"

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HER IN CLASS TOMORROW!

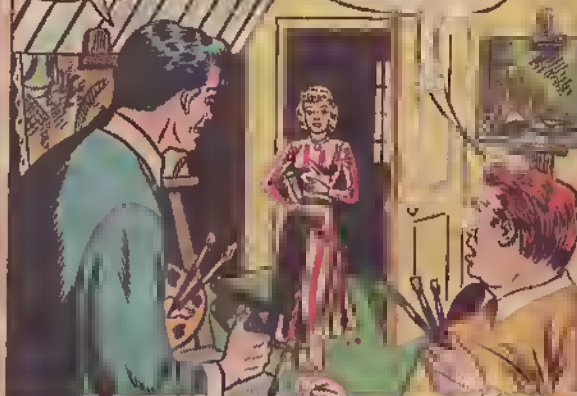
ME, EITHER... SHE'LL BE A SENSATION!



"NEXT MORNING, IN ART CLASS, MY FEARS OF BIBI DIED AWAY! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I SAW MALE ADMIRATION... FOR ME!"

OH, BROTHER, THAT'S FOR ME! IS SHE A HONEY!

ISN'T THAT... WASN'T SHE... I MEAN... IT'S MELISSA CORWIN!



"MY COLLEGE YEARS PASSED IN A FLURRY OF WONDER, EXCITEMENT AND HAPPINESS! BIBI NEVER CAME TO SEE ME, NATURALLY, BUT I COULD ALWAYS READ ABOUT HER IN THE SOCIETY COLUMNS! AS FOR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS... WELL..."

GOSH, LISSA, WON'T YOU BE **LONELY** IN SCHOOL AT CHRISTMAS TIME? COME HOME WITH ME!

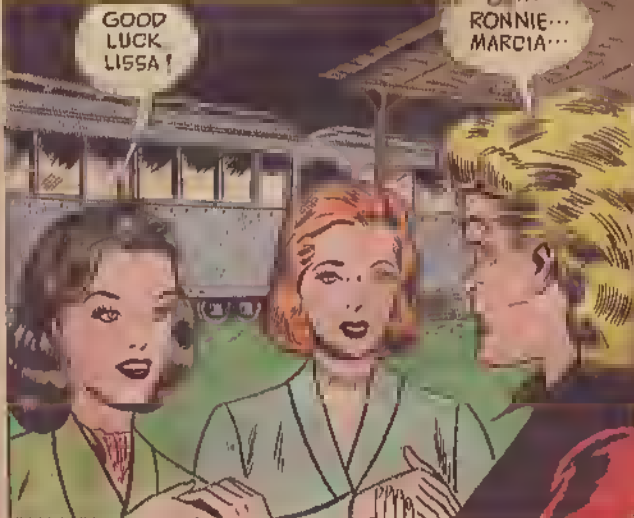
DON'T GIVE IT A THOUGHT, RONNIE! I'M USED TO IT BY NOW! BIBI'S ON A SKING JAUNT AND DOESN'T WANT ME AROUND.



"I FLEW ON AND SUDDENLY I WAS MISS MELISSA CORWIN, BACHELOR OF ARTS! THE TIME HAD COME..."

GOOD LUCK LISSA!

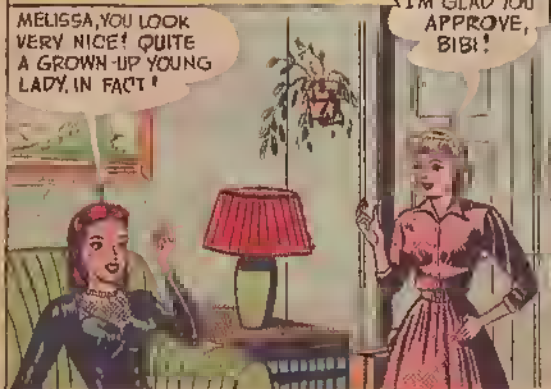
O... RONNIE... MARCIA...



"HOME AGAIN! FOR A WHILE, I HAD HOPED THAT BIBI MIGHT HAVE CHANGED, THAT SHE WOULD WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH HER DAUGHTER! BUT WHEN I SAW HER, GLITTERING WITH GLAMOUR, I KNEW MY HOPES WERE USELESS! AND WHEN SHE SAW **ME**..."

MELISSA, YOU LOOK VERY NICE! QUITE A GROWN-UP YOUNG LADY, IN FACT!

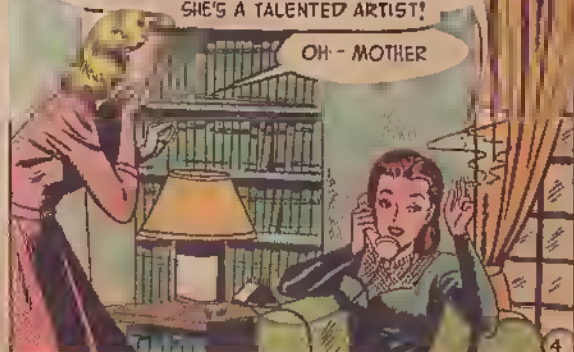
I'M GLAD YOU APPROVE, BIBI!



"BIBI'S EYES NARROWED SLIGHTLY! HER LONG, TAPERING FINGERS REACHED FOR A PHONE AND SHE SMILED AT ME. AS THOUGH GRANTING ME A VERY SPECIAL FAVOR..."

HELLO, JOHN DEXTER? HOW ARE THINGS IN NEW YORK, DARLING? TELL ME, SWEET, COULD YOU WANGLE A JOB FOR MELISSA? SHE'S A TALENTED ARTIST!

OH - MOTHER





"FROM SOMEWHERE IN THE HOUSE CAME THE SOUNDS OF TINKLING GLASSES AND LAUGHTER! BIBI WAS GIVING ONE OF HER NEVER-ENDING PARTIES! SHE FACED ME, AS I FOUGHT DOWN MY RESENTMENT..."

ISN'T IT **FUN**, MELISSA? YOU HAVE A BRAND NEW JOB IN NEW YORK! **YOU'RE TO LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

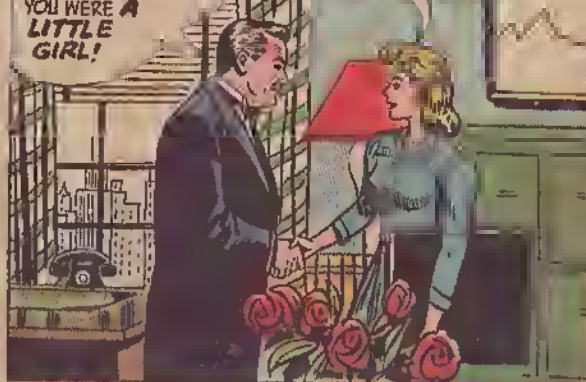
BUT, BIBI, I WANT TO **STAY** A WHILE...WITH **YOU!**



"BUT BIBI SAW TO IT THAT I WAS PACKED AND ON A PLANE TO NEW YORK EARLY THE NEXT MORNING! IN THE SWANKY OFFICES OF DEXTER AND WOODRUFF, I WAS GIVEN A WARM WELCOME..."

SO YOU'RE BIBI'S LITTLE GIRL! STRANGE...SOMEHOW, I'VE ALWAYS HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU WERE A **LITTLE GIRL!**

THAT'S BECAUSE MOTHER'S SO...SO **YOUNG-LOOKING**, MR. DEXTER!



THE PEOPLE I WORKED WITH ACCEPTED ME IMMEDIATELY AS ONE OF THEM! I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE ART DEPARTMENT WHERE I MET...**HIM!**"

I'M DON MAC GREGOR, YOUR ART DIRECTOR! DO I FRIGHTEN YOU?

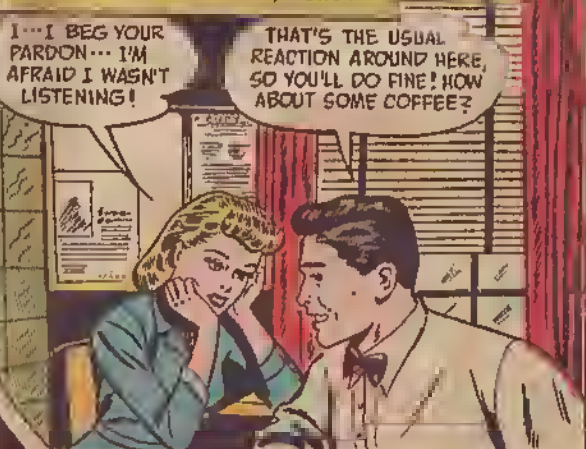
NO, ODDLY ENOUGH YOU DON'T... **NOT AT ALL!**



HE SHOWED ME AROUND, EXPLAINING THE SETUP... BUT I KEPT LOOKING AT THE CLEAR DEEP BLUE OF HIS EYES...THE CURVE OF HIS LIPS! WAS HE MARRIED? ENGAGED? HE ASKED ME A QUESTION..."

I...I BEG YOUR PARDON... I'M AFRAID I WASN'T LISTENING!

THAT'S THE USUAL REACTION AROUND HERE, SO YOU'LL DO FINE! HOW ABOUT SOME COFFEE?



"NEW YORK WAS TURNING INTO HEAVEN! I FOUND A SMALL APARTMENT, MY VERY OWN, AND GAVE A HOUSEWARMING..."

LISSA, THIS PLACE IS ENCHANTING! YOU'RE REALLY A TERRIFIC GIRL!

FUNNY... THAT'S WHAT I KEEP TELLING HER!



"DON STAYED AFTER THE OTHERS HAD LEFT... TO HELP CLEAR AWAY, HE **SAID!**"

LISSA...STOP THAT NONSENSE AT ONCE! YOU'RE JUST WASTING TIME, WHEN YOU **COULD BE...**

YES?





GETTING KISSED! HE WHISPERED, AS I SEEMED TO MELT IN HIS ARMS, LOSING MYSELF IN HIS STRENGTH... HIS NEARNESS ..."



"WE FORGOT THE DISHES... FORGOT EVERYTHING BUT THE HAMMERING OF OUR HEARTS, THE WARMTH OF OUR ARMS, THE MAGIC OF WHISPERED LOVE WORDS AND FIERY KISSES ..."

DARLING... DARLING... I'VE BEEN THINKING OF THIS FROM THE MOMENT I SAW YOU!

I SHOULDN'T ADMIT THIS, I KNOW, BUT... SO HAVE I!



"HOURS WENT BY... THE FIRE DIED DOWN... BUT DON AND I NEVER NOTICED! NOTHING AROUND US EXISTED! WE WERE TWO LOVERS, ALONE, AND OH, SO HAPPY TO BE TOGETHER ..."

I KNEW IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS, DARLING... PERFECT!

DON, YOU DON'T KNOW, YOU DON'T KNOW... HOW YOU'VE CHANGED MY LIFE!



"ALTHOUGH DAWN WAS BREAKING WHEN DON LEFT, AND I SHOULD HAVE BEEN VERY SLEEPY... I WASN'T! AT LAST MELISSA CORWIN HAD GROWN UP! I LOVED AND WAS LOVED!"

NOW... NOW I CAN GO HOME... WITH DON! BIBI WILL WELCOME ME NOW... THAT I'M NO LONGER A THREAT TO HER!



"DON LOVED THE IDEA OF GOING HOME WITH ME! HE WANTED TO MEET MY MOTHER AND MAKE A FORMAL DECLARATION OF HIS LOVE!"

TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOUR MOTHER, ANGEL! DOES SHE BAKE A MEAN APPLE PIE?

WELL... NOT EXACTLY, DON! MIXING A MEAN MARTINI IS MORE IN HER LINE!



"WE ARRIVED IN A FLURRY OF GAIETY AND FUN! BIBI WAS GIVING A HOUSE PARTY!"

THIS IS DON MAC GREGOR, BIBI! HE'S THAT EXTRA SPECIAL GUY I WROTE YOU ABOUT!

AND FOR ONCE, DARLING, YOU WERE SO RIGHT! HE IS... EXTRA SPECIAL!





"I COULD TELL THAT DON WAS ASTONISHED WHEN HE SAW BIBI! SHE WAS HARDLY THE 'MOTHER' HE HAD EXPECTED TO SEE! THEN TOO, HE WAS FLATTERED BY THE FLATTERY IN HER EYES! THEY LIKED EACH OTHER... AND THAT WAS A GOOD START, I FELT! HOW **WRONG I WAS!**"

DARLING, BE ESPECIALLY NICE TO NORMAN MITCHELL... I'M PLANNING TO MARRY HIM SOON!

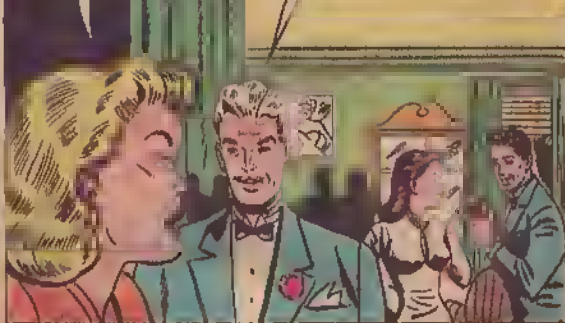
I'M HAPPY FOR YOU, BIBI! THAT'S GOOD NEWS!



"NORMAN MITCHELL SEEMED TO BE VERY NICE... NOT THE USUAL RUN OF BIBI'S MONEY-MAD FLAMES! BUT AS I CHATTED WITH HIM, MY EYES KEPT WANDERING ACROSS THE ROOM... TO BIBI, GETTING A LIGHT FROM DON... HER GLANCES **SMOLDERING...**"

YES, MR. MITCHELL, DON AND I HOPE TO BE MARRIED VERY SOON!

START CALLING ME NORMAN, MELISSA... WE'LL ALL BE IN THE SAME FAMILY, YOU KNOW!



"THE FAINT STIRRINGS OF DOUBT IN MY HEART WERE GROWING... GROWING AS I SAW BIBI LEAN CLOSE TO DON, WHISPER SOMETHING THAT MADE HIM ROAR! I COULDN'T REMEMBER DON'S EVER HAVING LAUGHED LIKE THAT... WITH ME..."

LET ME GET YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK, MELISSA! WHAT'LL IT BE?

OH, WHAT?... YES, THANK YOU, NORMAN... ANYTHING... **ANYTHING AT ALL!**

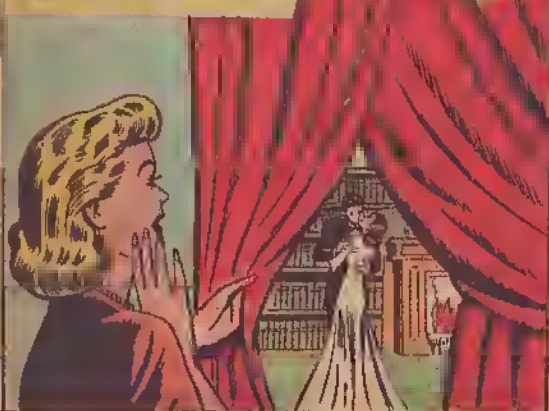


"THEY... THEY WERE LEAVING THE ROOM TOGETHER! I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT... BUT I **KNEW...** I **KNEW...** THAT BIBI WAS TAKING DON FROM ME... PROVING TO HERSELF AND TO EVERYONE THAT SHE WAS STILL FATALLY ATTRACTIVE... MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN HER OWN DAUGHTER!"

I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW THEM... I SHOULDN'T... BUT I **MUST...**



"**IT HAPPENED THEN!** THE FEAR, THE SHAME, THE HATE, THE BITTERNESS THAT BIBI HAD MADE MY PORTION-- ALL OF THESE WELLED UP IN A SURGE OF TERRIFYING EMOTION! DON--DON... MY HEART CONTRACTED WITHIN ME AS I REALIZED WHAT I HAD LOST..."



"WOULD NOT BE SUBMITTED TO THIS! I WOULD FIGHT BACK AS I HAD NEVER FOUGHT BEFORE! BIBI HAD TAKEN MY CHILDHOOD AND WRECKED IT... WOULD SHE... **COULD SHE DO THE SAME THING NOW?**"

I WON'T LET HER GET AWAY WITH THIS! **THIS TIME...** I'M GOING TO BE **REVENGED!**





"SHE HAD ALWAYS PUSHED ME INTO THE BACKGROUND, TRIED TO MAKE ME LOOK RIDICULOUS! IT WOULDN'T WORK ANY MORE! I WAS YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL! I HAD THE WEAPONS TO STRIKE BACK! BUT **HOW?** SUDDENLY, I SAW NORMAN, WITH A DRINK IN HIS HAND, LOOKING FOR ME... AND I **KNEW**..."

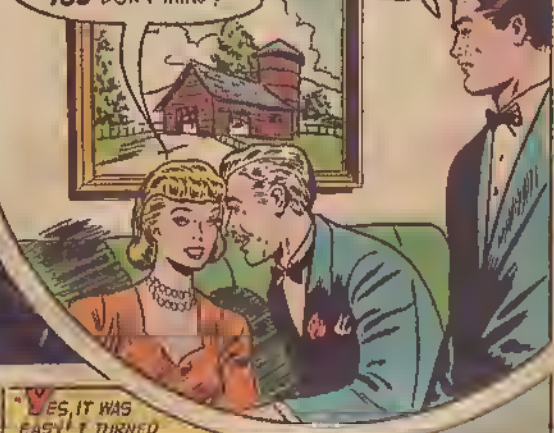
OH, NORMAN, YOU'RE SWEET! LET'S FIND A QUIET CORNER AND... RELAX TOGETHER!

THAT'S THE BEST OFFER I'VE HAD IN YEARS!

"I SAT CLOSE TO HIM, WOOING HIM WITH MY EYES, MY SMILES! I COULD SEE BIBI, CALMLY TIDYING HER LIPSTICK! THEN I SAW DON SEARCHING THE ROOM FOR ME! HE CAME TO ASK ME TO DANCE..."

SO SORRY DON I'VE PROMISED TO DANCE WITH NO ONE BUT NORMAN... ALL EVENING! YOU DON'T MIND?

LISSA, WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU ANGRY ABOUT SOMETHING?



"REACHING UP, I RUBBED A SMUDGE OF LIPSTICK FROM DON'S MOUTH, AND THEN, SLIPPING INTO NORMAN'S ARMS, I CLOSED MY EYES AND RESTED MY HEAD ON HIS SHOULDER! NORMAN'S HEART STARTED TO BEAT FASTER..."

HOW SHE MUST BE STARING! NOW SHE'S FRIGHTENED OF ME! SHE KNOWS I'M TAKING NORMAN AWAY FROM HER... SO EASILY!

LISSA... YOU'RE LOVELY... LOVELY...



"YES, IT WAS EASY! I TURNED HIS HEAD BY IMITATING ALL THE WILES THAT BIBI USED SO WELL... ONLY I USED THEM BETTER! AND THEN, TO MAKE MY REVENGE SWEETER AND COMPLETE, I SUGGESTED TO NORMAN THAT WE REST... IN THE LIBRARY..."



"WITHOUT WAITING FOR A PROPOSAL FROM NORMAN, I BECKONED BIBI INTO THE LIBRARY! DON CAME, TOO. GOOD! MY ANNOUNCEMENT ELECTRIFIED THEM AS I HELD NORMAN'S HAND POSSESSIVELY AND... SMILING... SAID..."

I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN, BIBI, BUT YOU UNDERSTAND THINGS LIKE THIS SO WELL! NORMAN AND I LOVE EACH OTHER! WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED!

YOU... YOU... NORMAN, IS THIS TRUE?



"MY NURSERY DAYS WERE OVER! I HAD WON... OVER BIBI! BUT IN THE SILENCE THAT FOLLOWED, IN THE SHARP LOOK OF PAIN IN DON'S EYES, IN THE SUDDEN FEELING OF TERROR THAT SWEEPED OVER ME... THERE WAS NO TRIUMPH!"

WHAT AM I DOING? I MUST BE LOSING MY MIND! I DON'T LOVE NORMAN... I DON'T WANT HIM! I LOVE DDN...





"THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED WERE MONSTROUS! I HAD DONE THIS... I! THREE LIVES WOULD BE EMBITTERED BY MY ACT! FOR IF I MARRIED NORMAN, WE WOULD BE MISERABLE! AS FOR BIBI, HER EGO HAD BEEN SMASHED AND SHE WOULD BE SHATTERED ENTIRELY! I COULDN'T STAND BEING INSIDE THAT HOUSE..."



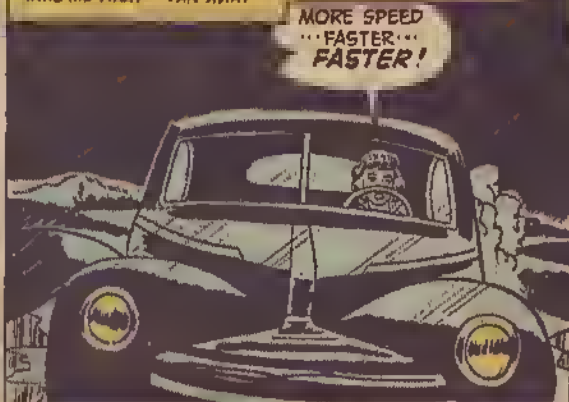
I'VE GOT TO BE ALONE... TO THINK THIS OUT...

"I LONGED FOR OBLIVION, FORGETFULNESS! AS THE CAR SHOT FORWARD, I SAW A CLUMP OF TREES UP AHEAD... IN MY PATH..."



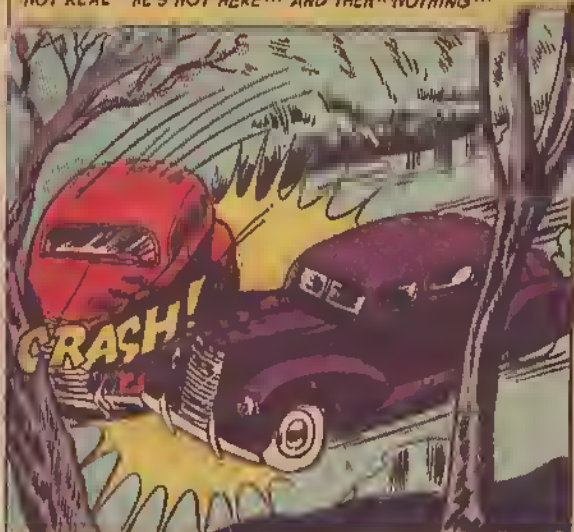
LISSA! LISSA! STOP...

"THE WIND WAS BITING AND THE ROADS WERE RIBBONS OF ICE! MY TEAR-FILLED EYES SAW THEM AS GLARING STREAKS, WINDING AND TWISTING TREACHEROUSLY. WHY DIDN'T I SURRENDER TO THEM, THESE GLASSY ROADS THAT WOULD TAKE ME AWAY... FAR AWAY..."



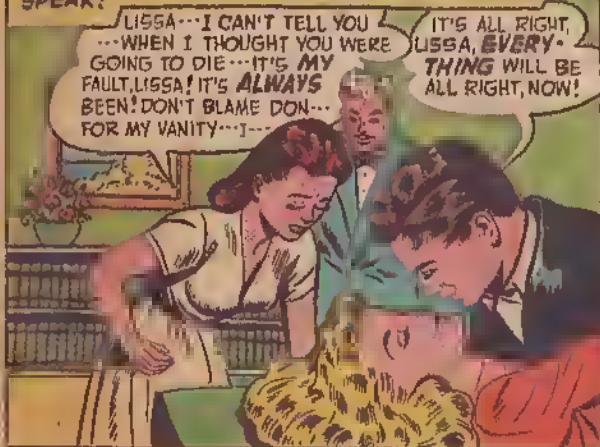
MORE SPEED... FASTER... FASTER!

"A CAR CRASHED INTO MINE... 'FUNNY... WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?'; I WONDERED. THEN I HEARD DON'S VOICE. 'IT'S NOT REAL... HE'S NOT HERE...' AND THEN... NOTHING..."



CRASH!

"I AWOKED TO THE TOUCH OF DON'S KISSES, TO HIS MURMURED ENDEARMENTS! THEN I SAW HER... BIBI! HER FACE WAS STRIPPED OF GLAMOUR, CRUMPLED WITH TEARS! AND SHE SPOKE TO ME... AS A MOTHER WOULD SPEAK!"



LISSA... I CAN'T TELL YOU... WHEN I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO DIE... IT'S MY FAULT, LISSA! IT'S ALWAYS BEEN! DON'T BLAME DON... FOR MY VANITY... I...

IT'S ALL RIGHT, LISSA, EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT, NOW!

"THEY LEFT US ALONE TOGETHER! YES, I HAD WON... MORE THAN I EVER DREAMED OF! BIBI WAS REALLY MY MOTHER NOW... AND AS FOR DON... WE WENT INTO EACH OTHER'S ARMS AND CLUNG... OUR KISS A PROMISE AND A FULFILLMENT... OF LOVE!"



The END!



# Escape INTO ROMANCE

IT was a badly-paying job, with long hours and hard work required of her, but Ellen needed it. So urgent was her need, that she pretended not to notice the sly, admiring leers directed at her by Mr. Crombie, the office manager.

When he had hired her, Mr. Crombie had looked at her appraisingly, noting her rounded figure, her lovely mouth and thick, curling hair. Ellen had winced under the examination, but it was a job. She did not care for Mr. Crombie's looks at all. He was a thick-set, middle-aged man who slicked his hair and his shallow eyes were never still. His voice was far too oily as he asked her about her experience, her ability to work this or that office machine.

When he hired her, Ellen resolved to do her work quietly, stay out of his way, and allow no opportunities for advances from him. For one week, she was successful, leaving the office promptly, happy to escape Mr. Crombie's meaningful stares.

But one afternoon, Ellen knew she was trapped. Mr. Crombie, explaining that there was a sudden heavy rush of weekend mail, asked her to stay "a bit later." She would be paid overtime, he assured her, and would not be kept later than necessary. Ellen didn't dare refuse, for she wanted to keep her job. And Mr. Crombie *did* sound business-like when he asked her!

Desks were slammed shut, the time clock was punched again and again, and in a few minutes, the office was deserted. Only Ellen and Mr. Crombie remained in the gathering dusk, surrounded by unaccustomed silence.

Her heart palpitating with fear, Ellen took her shorthand book and said,

"I'm ready for the correspondence, Mr. Crombie."

Mr. Crombie smiled. "Don't be a silly child," he said. "How's for a little drink first? I've got the key to the bar."

Ellen refused, politely, saying that she was anxious to finish her work since her mother would be waiting dinner for her. Mr. Crombie smiled again. Sliding an arm around her waist, he said, "I'll buy you dinner, my dear . . . later! But now . . ."

As his face came towards Ellen, and she realized that he was about to kiss her, panic ran through her veins. Desperately, she tried to pull away, to free herself from his loathsome touch. But Mr. Crombie was a strong man and his grip tightened. Ellen stifled a scream and then, as if by magic, Mr. Crombie's grip gave way and he was flung to the floor.

"Sorry you've been annoyed," someone said. "I happened to be working rather late tonight, I'm glad to say. I'm Alan Craig."

Ellen recognized the name. He was a junior vice-president, a tall, handsome man, whose face at the moment was tensed in anger. He stared contemptuously at Mr. Crombie, who suddenly became just a fat, ridiculous-looking man sitting on the floor. "If you don't mind, I'll see you home," he said to Ellen. "You've had a shock."

In the taxi, Ellen found she was trembling. Reassuringly, Alan Craig held her close, protecting her, soothing her. *His* touch was different, so different, Ellen thought, welcoming his arms around her. Alan felt her response, for he kissed her, lightly at first. Ellen's willing lips answered, for her heart told her it was love . . . *for keeps!*



# MISTAKES *about* MALES

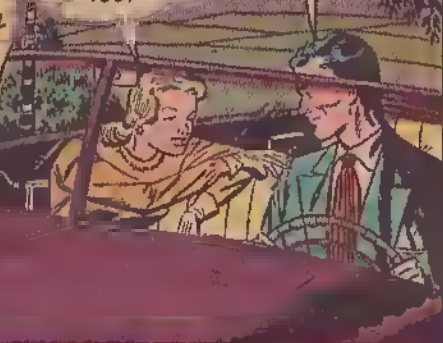
**ONE OF THE WORST MISTAKES A GIRL CAN MAKE IS TO THINK THAT ALL MEN ARE ALIKE... AND THAT SHE NEEDN'T BOTHER TREATING A MAN AS AN INDIVIDUAL, AS SOMEONE SPECIAL! ACTUALLY, NO TWO MEN ARE ALIKE... AND IF YOU WANT TO BE POPULAR AND HAVE MEN THINK THAT YOU'RE SOMEONE SPECIAL, YOU'D BETTER ADAPT YOUR TECHNIQUE TO THE PERSONALITY OF EACH OF THE MEN WHO DATE YOU... SO THAT YOU'LL NEVER MAKE THESE MISTAKES ABOUT MALES!**



**THE FIRST MISTAKE IS TO HAVE A SINGLE LINE OF PATTY THAT YOU USE ON ALL THE MALES YOU KNOW! FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU HAVE A LIGHT-HEARTED, BANTERING "LINE," YOU'LL FIND THAT SOME MEN TAKE IT IN THE SAME HALF-SERIOUS, JOKING MANNER...**

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE HANDSOME ENOUGH TO BE IN THE MOVIES, CHET... I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY GIRL WHO CAN RESIST YOU!

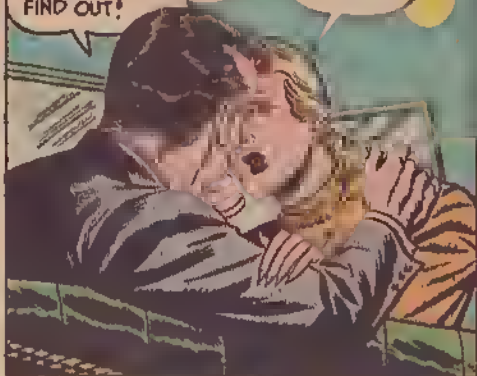
SURE... THERE'S PROBABLY NO GIRL WHO CAN RESIST RUNNING AWAY FROM ME!



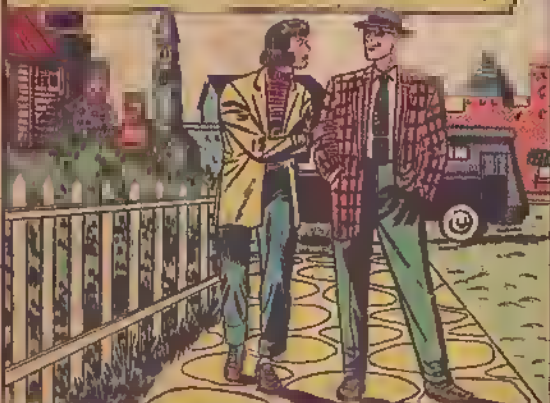
**BUT ANOTHER MAN MIGHT TAKE IT ANOTHER WAY WHEN HE HEARS YOU HANDING HIM THAT LINE!**

SO YOU CAN'T RESIST ME, EH? WELL, LET'S FIND OUT!

OH... STOP!



**ANOTHER MISTAKE IS TO DRESS THE SAME WAY FOR THE SAME KIND OF DATES WITH DIFFERENT MEN! SPORTY STUART MIGHT LIKE YOU IN THIS KIND OF CLOTHES WHEN HE ASKS YOU TO GO FOR A WALK WITH HIM...**



**BUT CONSERVATIVE CLYDE MIGHT HAVE DIFFERENT IDEAS ABOUT THE KIND OF CLOTHES SUITABLE FOR A WALK... AND YOU CAN BET HE'LL BE TAKING A WALK RIGHT OUT OF YOUR LIFE!**

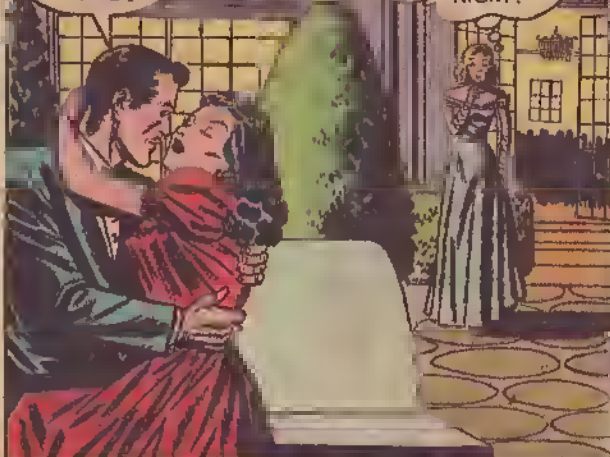




AND IF THIS EVER HAPPENS TO YOU...

OH...HE...HE SAID THOSE SAME WORDS TO ME ONLY LAST NIGHT!

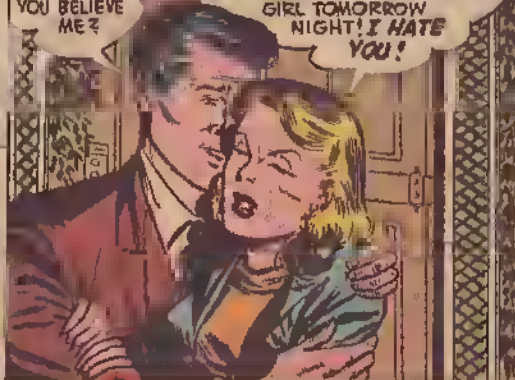
DARLING... I LOVE YOU!



...DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING THAT ALL MEN ARE ALIKE, AND THAT THEY'RE ALL LIARS AND DECEIVERS... BECAUSE THE NEXT ONE WHO MURMURS WORDS OF LOVE TO YOU MIGHT MEAN THEM!

BUT DARLING, I DO LOVE YOU... WHY CAN'T YOU BELIEVE ME?

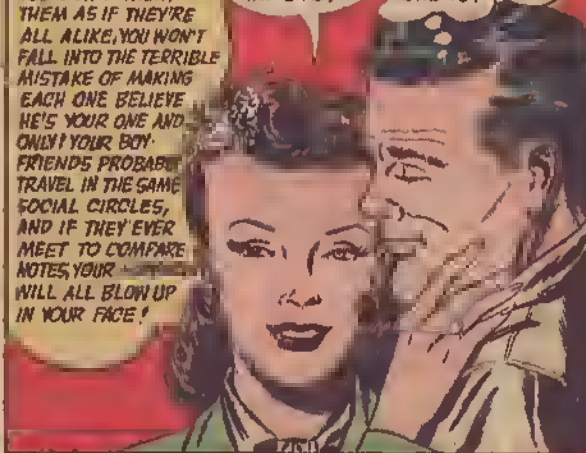
BECAUSE YOU'RE JUST HANDING ME A LINE... YOU'LL BE SAYING THAT TO SOME OTHER GIRL TOMORROW NIGHT! I HATE YOU!



IF YOU VARY YOUR APPROACH TO SUIT EACH INDIVIDUAL MAN YOU DATE, IF YOU DON'T TREAT THEM AS IF THEY'RE ALL ALIKE, YOU WON'T FALL INTO THE TERRIBLE MISTAKE OF MAKING EACH ONE BELIEVE HE'S YOUR ONE AND ONLY! YOUR BOY-FRIENDS PROBABLY TRAVEL IN THE SAME SOCIAL CIRCLES, AND IF THEY EVER MEET TO COMPARE NOTES, YOUR WILL ALL BLOW UP IN YOUR FACE!

OH, GEORGE... I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A MAN LIKE YOU ALL MY LIFE!

BOB TOLD ME SHE SAID THE SAME THING TO HIM... WHAT A PHONEY SHE IS!

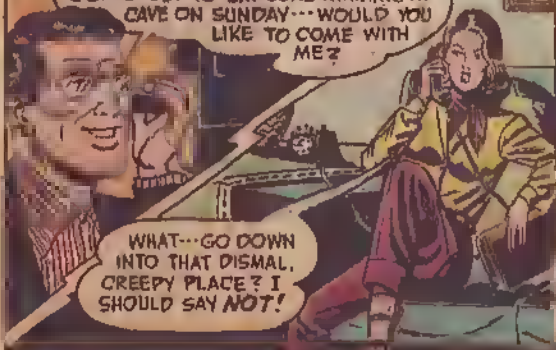


YES, IF YOU DON'T WANT THIS HAPPENING TO YOU, YOU'LL OFFER YOUR HEART ONLY TO THE ONE AND ONLY!



ONCE YOU REALIZE THAT MEN AREN'T ALL ALIKE, YOU'LL TRY WINNING THE MAN WHO'S DIFFERENT... THE MAN WHO STANDS OUT ABOVE THE AVERAGE! BUT YOU'LL NEVER WIN HIM IF YOU MAKE THE MISTAKE OF ACCEPTING DATES FOR ONLY CERTAIN KINDS OF ENTERTAINMENT... BY INSISTING ON STICKING TO YOUR IDEA OF FUN!

HELLO, JEAN... MY GEOLOGY CLUB IS GOING OUT TO EXPLORE MAMMOTH CAVE ON SUNDAY... WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME WITH ME?



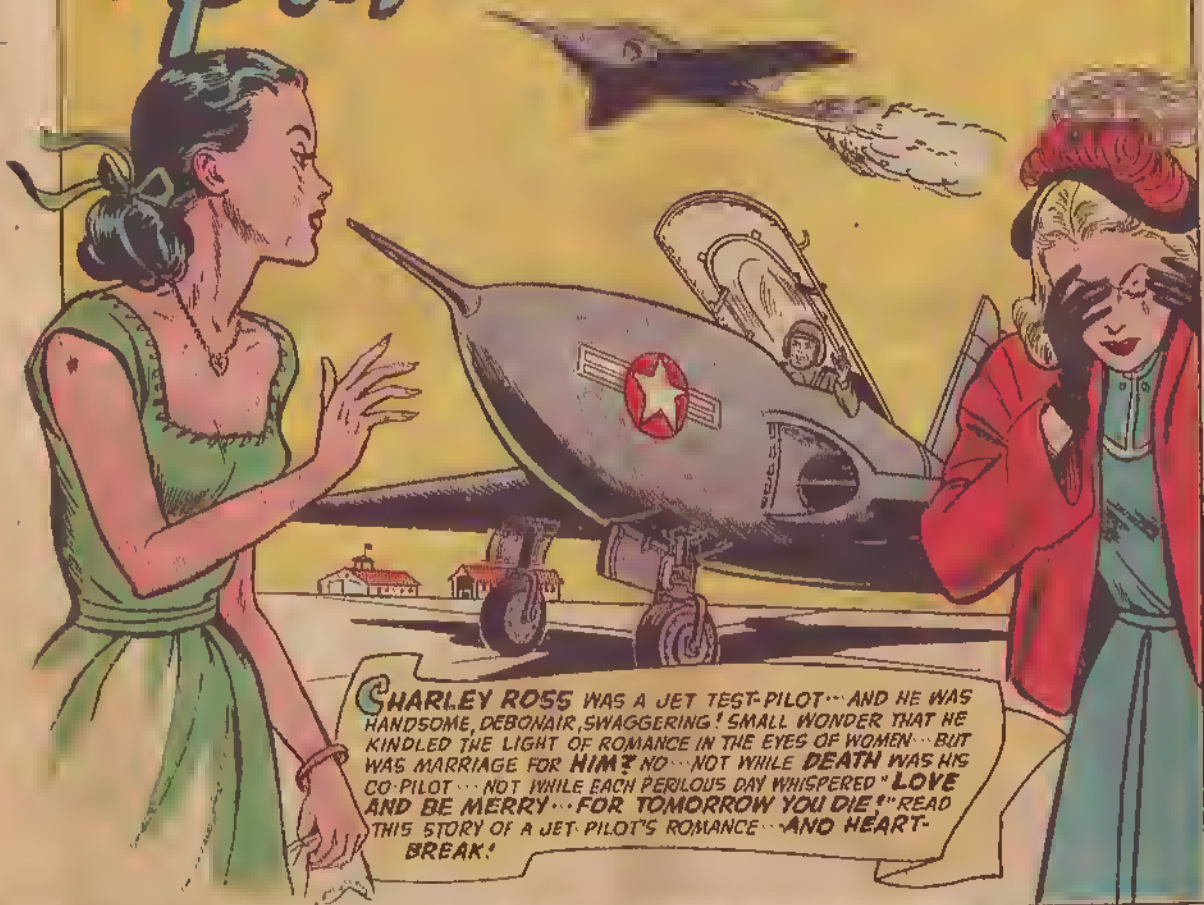
WHAT... GO DOWN INTO THAT DISMAL, CREEPY PLACE? I SHOULD SAY NOT!



IF YOU AVOID ALL THESE MISTAKES ABOUT MALES, YOU'LL KNOW HOW TO TREAT THE MAN OF YOUR DREAMS WHEN HE FINALLY COMES ALONG... AND WHEN HE SEES HOW YOU'RE TRYING TO UNDERSTAND HIS INDIVIDUAL TRAITS, HE'LL CONSIDER YOU SOMEBODY SPECIAL... SOMEBODY WHO'D MAKE A WONDERFUL WIFE!

THE END!

# Jet-Propelled **ROMEO**



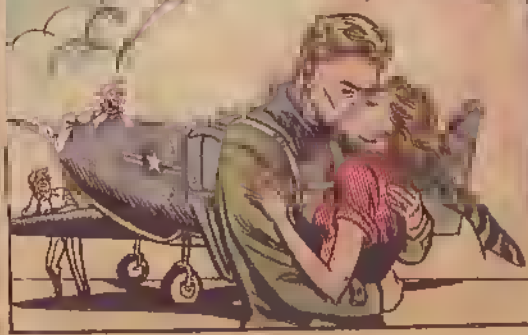
**IN THE AIR...**

THERE GOES CHARLEY AGAIN... THE **JET-PROPELLED DAREDEVIL** OF THE AIRWAYS!

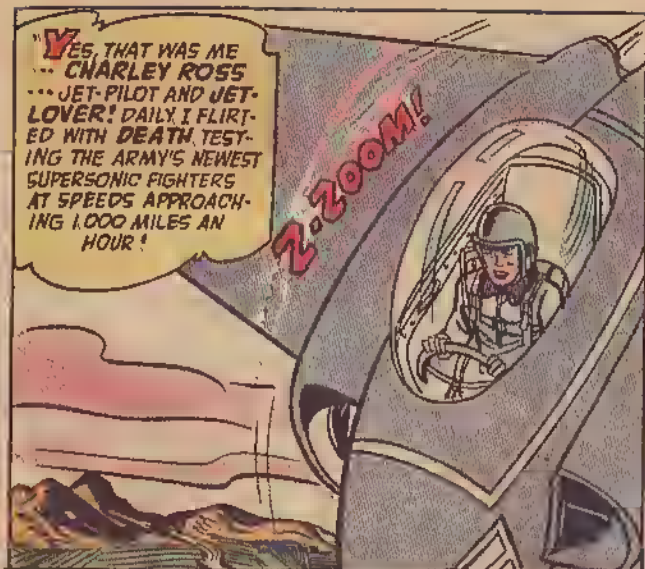


**AND ON THE GROUND...**

THERE GOES CHARLEY AGAIN... THE **JET-PROPELLED ROMEO** OF THE RUNWAYS!

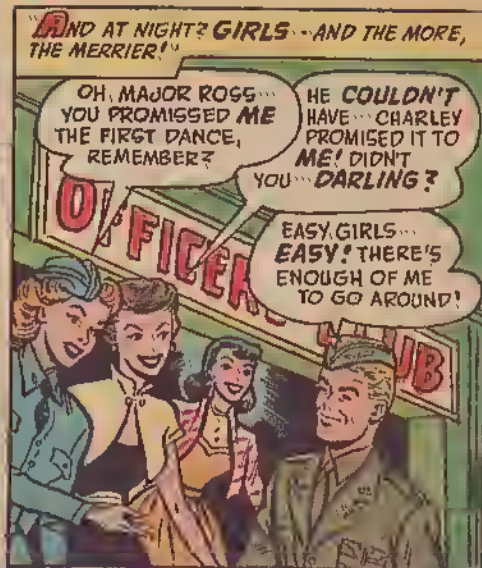






"YES, THAT WAS ME  
... CHARLEY ROSS  
... JET-PILOT AND JET-  
LOVER! DAILY I FLIRT-  
ED WITH DEATH, TEST-  
ING THE ARMY'S NEWEST  
SUPERSONIC FIGHTERS  
AT SPEEDS APPROACH-  
ING 1,000 MILES AN  
HOUR!"

Z-ZOOM!

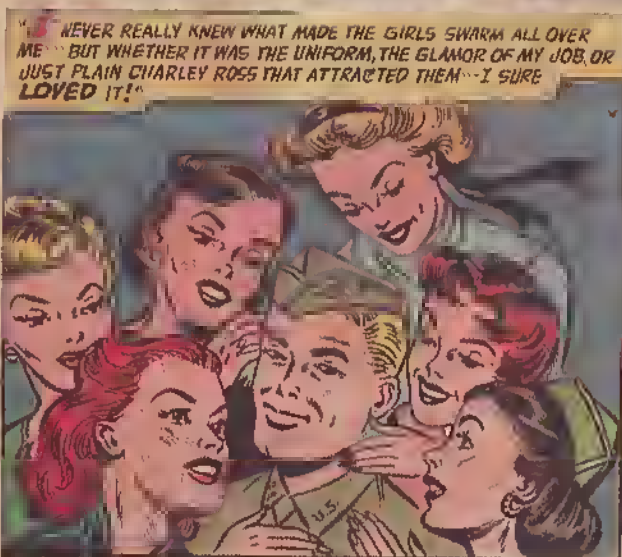


"AND AT NIGHT? GIRLS... AND THE MORE,  
THE MERRIER!"

OH, MAJOR ROSS...  
YOU PROMISED ME  
THE FIRST DANCE,  
REMEMBER?

HE COULDN'T  
HAVE... CHARLEY  
PROMISED IT TO  
ME! DIDN'T  
YOU... DARLING?

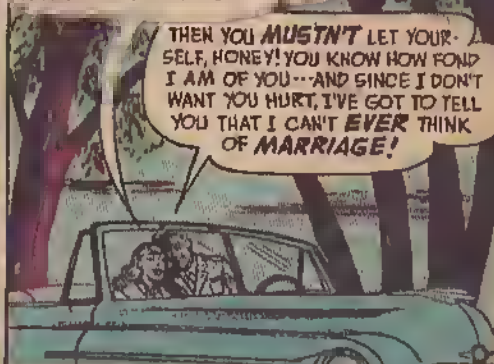
EASY, GIRLS...  
EASY! THERE'S  
ENOUGH OF ME  
TO GO AROUND!



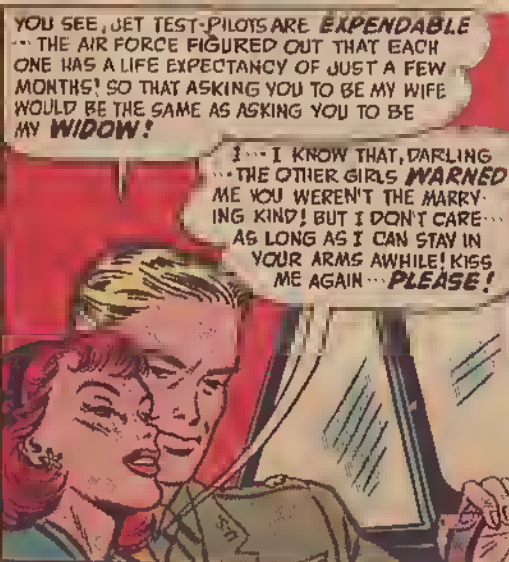
"I NEVER REALLY KNEW WHAT MADE THE GIRLS SWARM ALL OVER  
ME... BUT WHETHER IT WAS THE UNIFORM, THE GLAMOR OF MY JOB, OR  
JUST PLAIN CHARLEY ROSS THAT ATTRACTED THEM... I SURE  
LOVED IT!"

"YES, THERE WERE DOZENS OF GIRLS IN MY LIFE! I  
COULDN'T RESIST KISSING EACH NEW ONE, BUT MY  
CONSCIENCE WOULD ALWAYS SPEAK UP!"

OH, CHARLEY... I... I'VE NEVER BEEN  
KISSED LIKE THAT BEFORE! IT... IT  
WOULD BE SO EASY TO LET MYSELF  
FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU!



THEN YOU **MUSTN'T** LET YOUR-  
SELF, HONEY! YOU KNOW HOW FOND  
I AM OF YOU... AND SINCE I DON'T  
WANT YOU HURT, I'VE GOT TO TELL  
YOU THAT I CAN'T **EVER** THINK  
OF MARRIAGE!



YOU SEE, JET TEST-PILOTS ARE **EXPENDABLE**...  
THE AIR FORCE FIGURED OUT THAT EACH  
ONE HAS A LIFE EXPECTANCY OF JUST A FEW  
MONTHS! SO THAT ASKING YOU TO BE MY WIFE  
WOULD BE THE SAME AS ASKING YOU TO BE  
MY **WIDOW**!

I... I KNOW THAT, DARLING...  
THE OTHER GIRLS **WARNED**  
ME YOU WEREN'T THE MARRY-  
ING KIND! BUT I DON'T CARE...  
AS LONG AS I CAN STAY IN  
YOUR ARMS AWHILE! KISS  
ME AGAIN... **PLEASE**!



"CAN YOU BLAME A GUY LIKE ME FOR STEALING LOVE AND  
KISSES WHEREVER HE COULD, FOR TRYING TO SQUEEZE THE  
LAST OUNCE OF ENJOYMENT OUT OF A LIFE THAT COULD END  
AT ANY MOMENT IN A MID-AIR EXPLOSION OR A FLAMING  
CRASH? WELL, I DIDN'T BLAME MYSELF... UNTIL EILEEN  
CARLSON CAME BACK INTO MY LIFE ONE DAY!"

PARDON ME, I... I UNDERSTAND  
THAT MAJOR CHARLES ROSS  
IS STATIONED HERE! CAN  
YOU TELL  
ME...

EILEEN!  
WHAT ON EARTH  
ARE YOU DO-  
ING HERE?

"**EILEEN**... MY HOME-TOWN SWEETHEART... THE LOVE-STRUCK GIRL WHOM I'D PROPOSED TO WAY BACK WHEN I WAS A ROMANTIC ADOLESCENT... THE GIRL WHOM I HADN'T EVEN WRITTEN TO SINCE I'D BECOME A TEST-PILOT!"

H... HELLO, CHARLES!  
I... I HADN'T HEARD FROM YOU IN SO LONG, THAT I BECAME WORRIED AND DECIDED TO COME HERE AND SEE IF YOU WERE ALL RIGHT!

I'M OKAY, EILEEN... BUT GOSH, YOU MUST BE TIRED AND HUNGRY AFTER THAT LONG TRIP FROM PLAINVILLE! COME ON... I'LL TAKE YOU TO DINNER!



"**AGAINST MY OWN WISHES, I FELT MYSELF BEING DRAWN ONCE AGAIN TO THE SOFT, SHY, SENSITIVE GIRL WHO HAD BEEN MY FIRST LOVE... IN THE FIRST WILD FLUSH OF MY YOUTH!**"

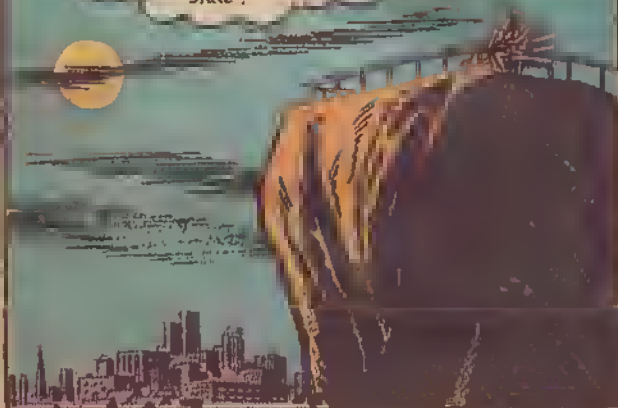
I... I MISSED YOU SO, CHARLES... AND I WAS TERRIBLY HURT WHEN YOU STOPPED WRITING ME!

I **HAD** TO STOP, SWEET-HEART! I WANTED YOU TO FORGET ME, TO BE FREE TO FIND SOMEONE WHO COULD GIVE YOU A FUTURE YOU COULD LOOK FORWARD TO!



"**A** SUDDEN SURGE OF PITY FLOODED OVER ME AS I SAW HOW DEEPLY MY WORDS HAD WOUNDED HER! DETERMINED TO MAKE UP FOR IT BY PROVING THAT I **STILL** CARED, I TOOK HER TO THE MOST ROMANTIC SPOT I KNEW... **POINT LOOKOUT!**"

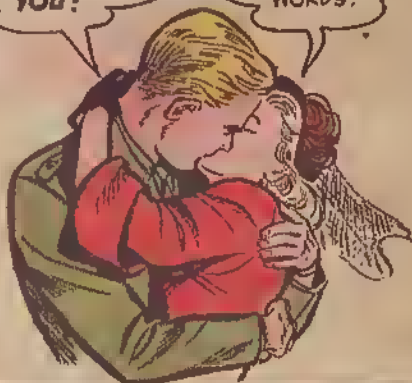
SHE... SHE'S SO PATHETICALLY SWEET! WHY SHOULDN'T I KISS HER... JUST FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE?



"**H**ER LIPS MELTED AGAINST MINE... AND IN AN INSTANT, I WAS RELIVING THE OLD, RAPTUREOUS INFATUATION! CAUGHT UP IN THE MAGIC SPELL OF THAT KISS, I THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT THAT I WAS YOUNG, TWENTY, AND IN LOVE AGAIN... AND THE OLD, FAMILIAR WORDS TUMBLED OUT BEFORE I COULD STOP THEM!"

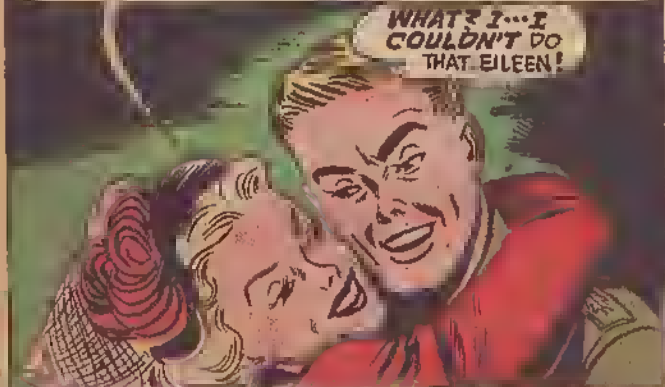
EILEEN, DARLING... I LOVE YOU, **LOVE YOU!**

OH, CHARLES... I'VE LIVED JUST TO HEAR THOSE WORDS!



FOR YEARS I'VE KNOWN MY LIFE WAS WORTH NOTHING WITHOUT YOU... AND IT TOOK ALL OF MY COURAGE TO COME TO YOU THIS WAY! WE CAN BE MARRIED NOW, IF YOU LEAVE YOUR JOB! TEST-PILOT DUTY IS ONLY VOLUNTARY... YOU CAN **LEAVE IT**... **FOR ME!**

WHAT? I... I COULDN'T DO THAT, EILEEN!



I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH MYSELF AGAIN IF I SHIRKED MY DUTY JUST WHEN THE JET-TEST-SERVICE NEEDS ME MOST! THE OTHER TEST-PILOTS HAVE BEEN CRACKING UP RIGHT AND LEFT ON THESE NEW, EXPERIMENTAL MODELS... THERE AREN'T VERY MANY OF US LEFT, WHO HAVE THE SKILL AND EXPERIENCE TO HANDLE THESE NEW SUPERSONIC JOBS. I CAN'T QUIT AND LET MY COUNTRY DOWN... NOT EVEN FOR **LOVE!**





"I SAW THE WILD, FRANTIC EXPRESSION ON HER FACE... THE LOOK OF RISING MYSTERY IN HER EYES... BUT I KNEW I COULDN'T LET PITY SWAY ME IN MY GRIM DETERMINATION NOT TO GIVE IN TO HER IMPOSSIBLE DEMANDS OF LOVE!"

I HATE TO SAY THIS, EILEEN... **BUT WE MUSTN'T EVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN!** YOU'VE BECOME TOO EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED WITH ME... IT'LL BE BETTER FOR YOU IN THE LONG RUN...!

YOU... YOU NEVER REALLY LOVED ME IF YOU CAN SAY THINGS LIKE THAT! BUT I... I CAN'T GO ON LIVING WITHOUT YOU... IT **WOULD** BE BETTER IF I NEVER SAW YOU AGAIN... **NEVER... NEVER...**

"I SHOULD HAVE BEEN WARNED BY THE NOTE IN HER VOICE, BY THE DESPERATE, TORMENTED LOOK IN HER FACE! BUT BEFORE I KNEW WHAT SHE WAS ABOUT TO DO..."

EILEEN... **COME BACK HERE!**

EILEEN... OH, NO... NO!

"**W**HORROR FLOODED OVER ME... STARK, OVERWHELMING HORROR... AND I SANK TO MY KNEES UNDER THE TERRIBLE WEIGHT OF GUILT THAT FILLED MY SOUL!"

SHE... SHE **KILLED** HERSELF... BECAUSE OF **ME!** NO... I KILLED HER... IT WAS ALL **MY** FAULT! MY KISSES AND WORDS OF LOVE GAVE HER HOPE AGAIN... AND SHE COULDN'T BEAR TO HAVE THAT HOPE SHATTERED! OH, DEAR LORD... DON'T EVER FORGIVE ME... DON'T EVER LET ME FORGET MY GUILT UNTIL I PAY FOR THE **MURDER** I COMMITTED TONIGHT!

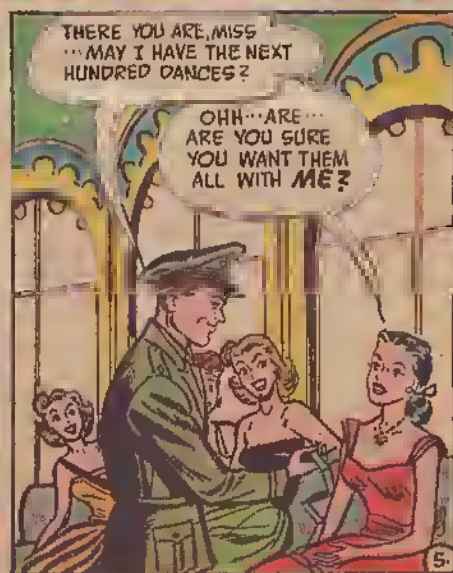
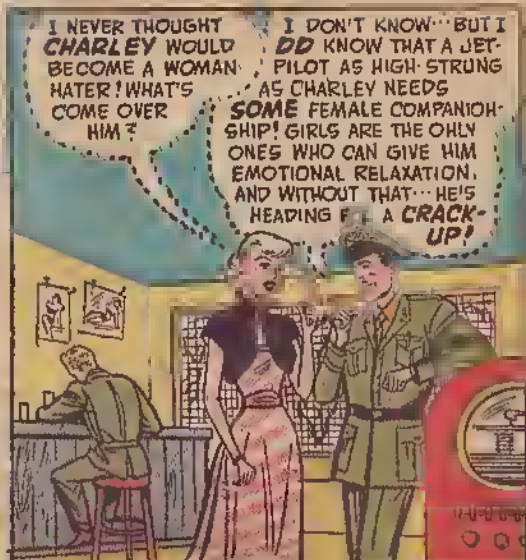
"**A**LL THAT TORTURED, SLEEPLESS NIGHT, MY MIND WAS WRACKED WITH THE IDEA OF PUNISHING MYSELF... **SOMHOW!** THE NEXT DAY, WHILE TESTING A NEW JET..."

IT... IT WOULD BE SO EASY... JUST A FLICK OF THE WRIST WOULD SEND THE PLANE DOWN IN A FLAMING CRASH... ALONG WITH **ME!** BUT THAT WOULD BE A **COWARD'S** WAY OUT... I'D BE RUNNING OUT ON MY DUTY TO MY COUNTRY...

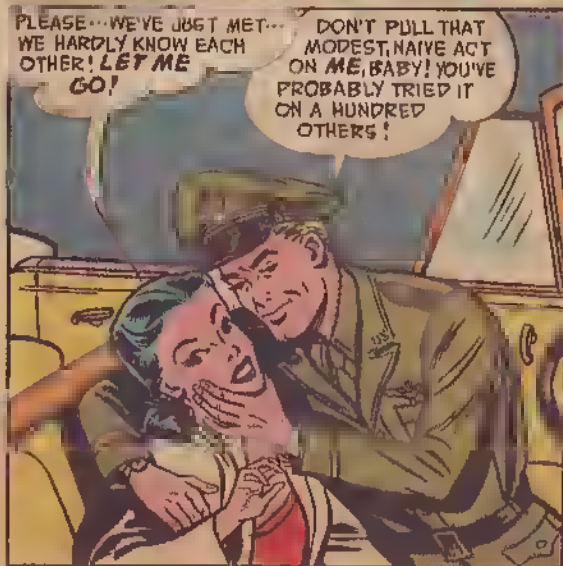
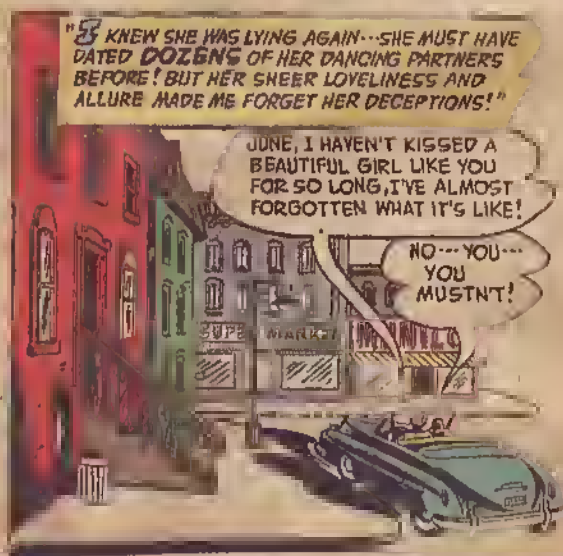
"**B**ATER, A GRIM DETERMINATION WAS BORN..."

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO IF I'M NOT TO BE A COWARD... I'VE GOT TO KEEP ON BEING A TEST PILOT... WHILE KEEPING LOVE COMPLETELY OUT OF MY LIFE! I'M **THROUGH** WITH ROMANCE... I'LL NEVER AGAIN MAKE LOVE TO A GIRL AND TAKE A CHANCE OF HURTING HER BECAUSE MY JOB PREVENTS ME FROM MARRYING HER! I **SWEAR** THAT NO ONE ELSE

WILL EVER HAVE TO GO THROUGH WHAT EILEEN DID!







"I TRIED FORGETTING JUNE WHITBY, BUT FOUND THAT I COULDN'T KEEP HER LOVELY FACE OUT OF MY THOUGHTS AND DREAMS...AND I KNEW THAT I'D HAVE TO SEE HER AGAIN!"

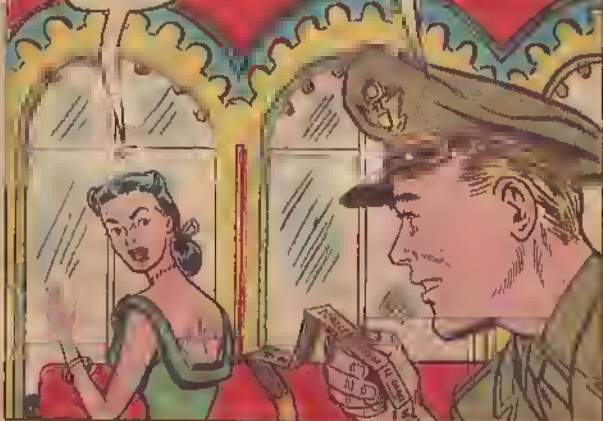
SHE'S JUST PLAYING HARD TO GET! SHE MUST HAVE A COLD, CALCULATING HEART TO PUT ON AN ACT LIKE THAT! BUT THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF GIRL I WANT...THE KIND WHO **COULDN'T** BE HURT THE WAY EILEEN WAS!



"THE NEXT NIGHT..."

YOU! I... I DON'T WANT TO DANCE WITH YOU!

BUT YOU **WILL**...OR I'LL SPEAK TO THE MANAGEMENT AND HAVE YOU FIRED FOR REFUSING TO DANCE WITH A PAYING CUSTOMER!



"HE HESITATED... BUT GAVE IN! AND THEN I PILED ON ALL THE CHARM THAT I'D DEVELOPED THROUGH DATING DOZENS OF GIRLS...A CHARM THAT HAD NEVER FAILED BEFORE...AND DIDN'T FAIL ME **THIS TIME!**"

I'M SORRY I WAS SO RUDE LAST NIGHT... I DIDN'T SLEEP A WINK, WORRYING WHETHER YOU'D ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES OR NOT! IF... IF YOU DON'T FORGIVE ME, I'LL GET DOWN ON MY KNEES RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF THIS CROWD AND **BEG YOU!**

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO **THAT!** I COULDN'T STAY MAD AT YOU NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED!



"I BEGAN SPENDING ALL MY FREE TIME WITH JUNE...AND SLOWLY, I BEGAN TO REALIZE THAT HER SWEET, SHY, MODEST CHARM...HER WARM, SINCERE, UNAFFECTED MANNER...**WASN'T** AN ACT...THAT IT WAS ALL **GENUINE!** YES, JUNE WHITBY SEEMED TO BE THE KIND OF GIRL ANY MAN WOULD BE **PROUD** TO MARRY!"



"AND THEN, AT A CARNIVAL I TOOK HER TO ONE DAY, I DECIDED TO FIND OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL WHETHER SHE WAS NAIVE AND INNOCENT AS SHE APPEARED TO BE!"

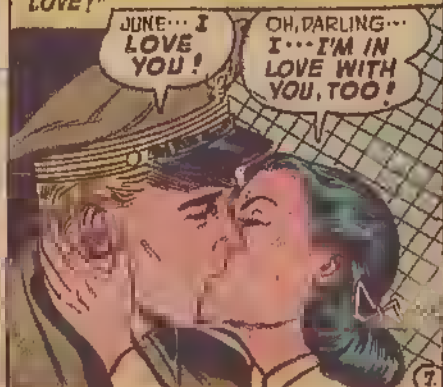
HER KISS WILL TELL ME WHETHER SHE'S A PERFECT ACTRESS OR WHETHER SHE'S TRULY NEW AT THIS SORT OF THING! I'VE KISSED TOO MANY GIRLS TO BE FOOLED BY HER!



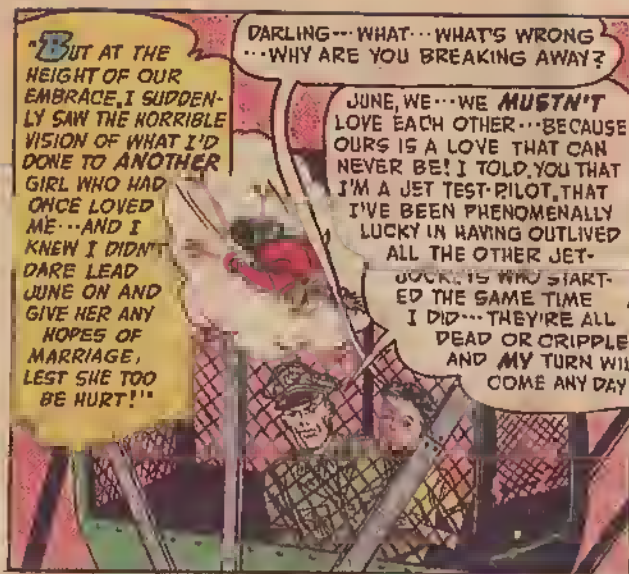
"CAUGHT BY SURPRISE, SHE RESISTED FOR A MOMENT...AND THEN HER LIPS MELTED AGAINST MINE WITH SUCH AN EAGER, NAIVE, UNTUTORED ARDOR THAT I KNEW THIS WAS HER FIRST KISS...AND MY **FIRST TRUE LOVE!**"

JUNE... I LOVE YOU!

OH, DARLING... I... I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, TOO!



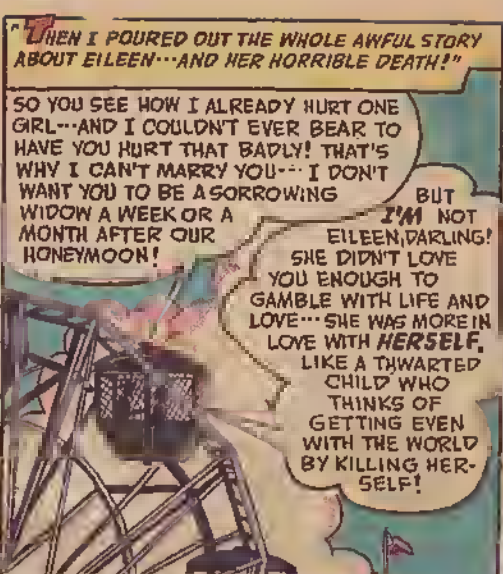




"BUT AT THE HEIGHT OF OUR EMBRACE, I SUDDENLY SAW THE HORRIBLE VISION OF WHAT I'D DONE TO ANOTHER GIRL WHO HAD ONCE LOVED ME...AND I KNEW I DIDN'T DARE LEAD JUNE ON AND GIVE HER ANY HOPES OF MARRIAGE, LEST SHE TOO BE HURT!"

DARLING... WHAT... WHAT'S WRONG... WHY ARE YOU BREAKING AWAY?

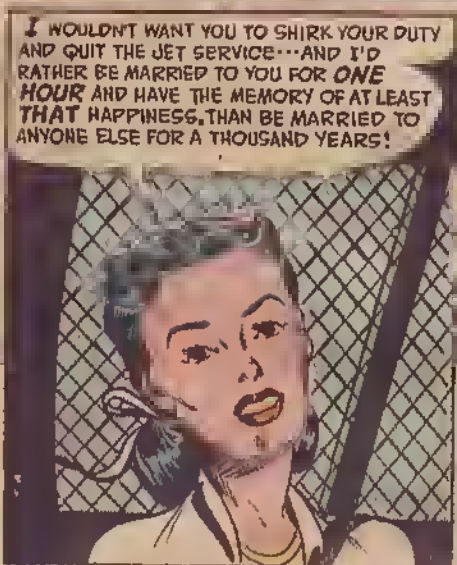
JUNE, WE... WE **MUSTN'T** LOVE EACH OTHER... BECAUSE OURS IS A LOVE THAT CAN NEVER BE! I TOLD YOU THAT I'M A JET TEST-PILOT, THAT I'VE BEEN PHENOMENALLY LUCKY IN HAVING OUTLIVED ALL THE OTHER JET-BOCKS WHO STARTED THE SAME TIME I DID... THEY'RE ALL DEAD OR CRIPPLED, AND MY TURN WILL COME ANY DAY!



"THEN I POURED OUT THE WHOLE AWFUL STORY ABOUT EILEEN...AND HER HORRIBLE DEATH!"

SO YOU SEE HOW I ALREADY HURT ONE GIRL...AND I COULDN'T EVER BEAR TO HAVE YOU HURT THAT BADLY! THAT'S WHY I CAN'T MARRY YOU... I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE A SORROWING WIDOW A WEEK OR A MONTH AFTER OUR HONEYMOON!

BUT I'M NOT EILEEN, DARLING! SHE DIDN'T LOVE YOU ENOUGH TO GAMBLE WITH LIFE AND LOVE... SHE WAS MORE IN LOVE WITH **HERSELF**, LIKE A THWARTED CHILD WHO THINKS OF GETTING EVEN WITH THE WORLD BY KILLING HERSELF!



I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO SHIRK YOUR DUTY AND QUIT THE JET SERVICE...AND I'D RATHER BE MARRIED TO YOU FOR **ONE HOUR** AND HAVE THE MEMORY OF AT LEAST THAT HAPPINESS, THAN BE MARRIED TO ANYONE ELSE FOR A THOUSAND YEARS!



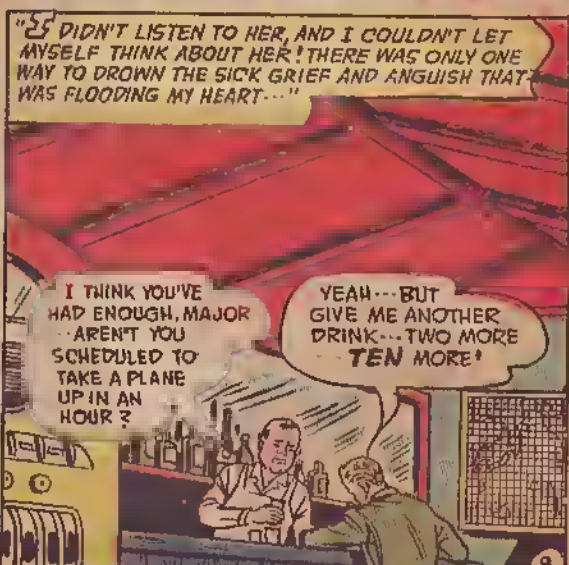
DON'T YOU SEE, DEAREST? I'M ASKING FOR A BIT OF HAPPINESS AND BLISS **NOW**, SO THAT IF THE WORST HAPPENS, I'LL AT LEAST HAVE SOME **MEMORIES** TO SUSTAIN ME IN MY HOUR OF LOSS!

YOU... YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! I KNOW WHAT DEATH IS LIKE, NOW IT WOUNDS AND SCARS THOSE WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND! I... I **CAN'T** LET YOU WASTE YOUR WHOLE LIFE AWAY AS A WIDOW!



THIS... THIS IS **GOODBYE**, JUNE!

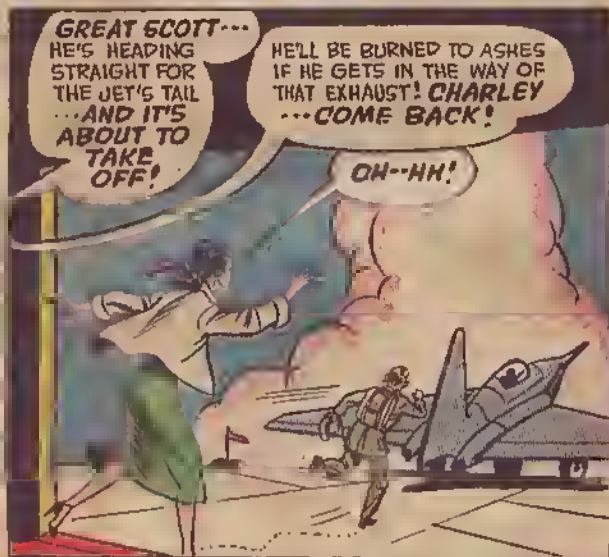
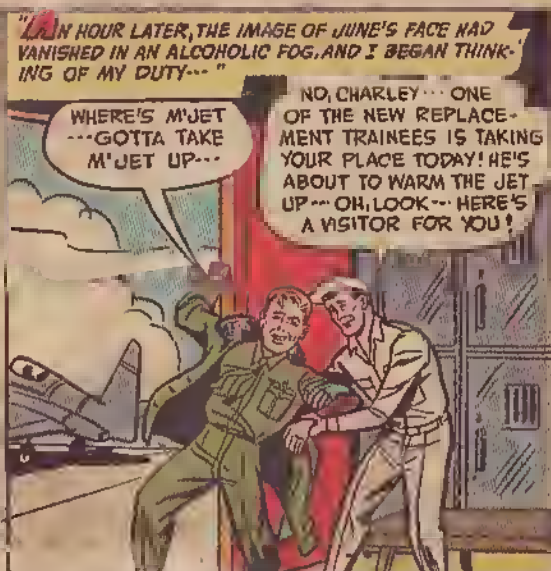
NO... **WAIT**... LISTEN TO ME...!



"I DIDN'T LISTEN TO HER, AND I COULDN'T LET MYSELF THINK ABOUT HER! THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO DROWN THE SICK GRIEF AND ANGUISH THAT WAS FLOODING MY HEART..."

I THINK YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH, MAJOR... AREN'T YOU SCHEDULED TO TAKE A PLANE UP IN AN HOUR?

YEAH... BUT GIVE ME ANOTHER DRINK... TWO MORE... **TEN MORE!**





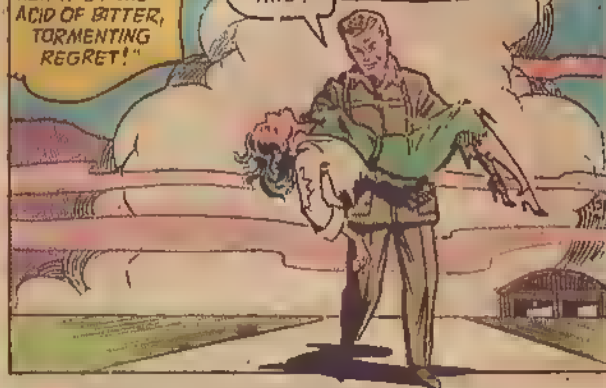
"THE HEAT OF THE FIERY BLAST SHOCKED ME INSTANTLY INTO SOBERNESS...AND A MOMENT LATER, MY HEART FILLED WITH HORROR AS I REALIZED WHAT HAD HAPPENED!"

JUNE... SHE SAVED ME! BUT IT GOT... HER...



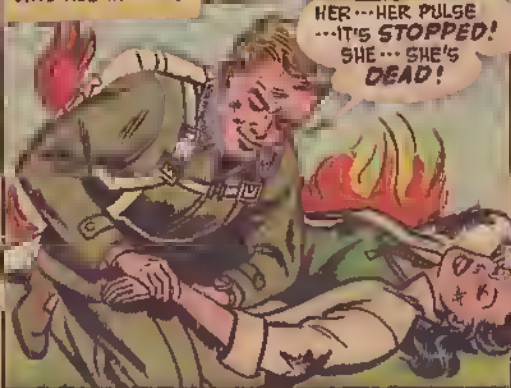
"WILD, UNCONTROLLABLE GRIEF OVERWHELMED ME, AND A DESOLATE SORROW WAS ETCHED INTO MY HEART BY THE ACID OF BITTER, TORTURING REGRET!"

OH, JUNE, MY LOVE, MY LOVE... WHY. OH WHY DIDN'T I MARRY YOU WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE? AT LEAST I'D HAVE HAD A FEW HOURS OR DAYS OF HAPPINESS WITH YOU... ENOUGH TO ENABLE ME TO BEAR LOSING YOU LIKE THIS!



"FRANTICALLY, I SLAPPED AT THE FLAMES WITH MY BARE HANDS, IGNORING THE PAIN IN MY DESPERATE HASTE! BUT WHEN I'D FINISHED, I FOUND OUT TO MY UTTER HORROR THAT IT WAS ALL IN VAIN!"

HER... HER PULSE... IT'S STOPPED! SHE... SHE'S DEAD!



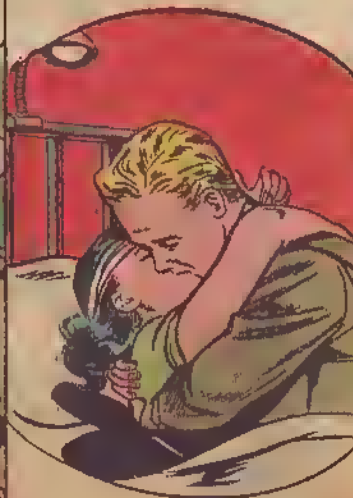
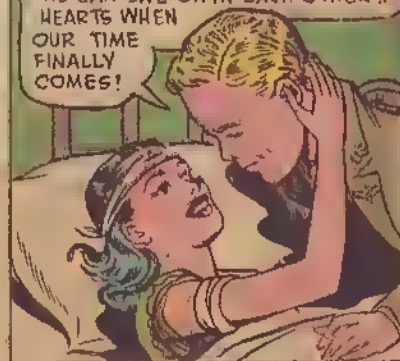
"OTHERS RAN UP AND TOOK JUNE'S BODY INTO THE BASE HOSPITAL, AND I STUMBLED AFTER THEM IN HEART-WRACKING DESPAIR, KNOWING THERE WAS NO HOPE! BUT THEN..."

I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS, MAJOR... YOU PROBABLY COULDN'T FEEL HER PULSE BECAUSE YOUR FINGERS HAD BEEN BURNED IN SLAPPING OUT THE FLAMES ON HER CLOTHES! SHE'S JUST COME OUT OF A STATE OF SHOCK, BUT SHE'S ALIVE... AND SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

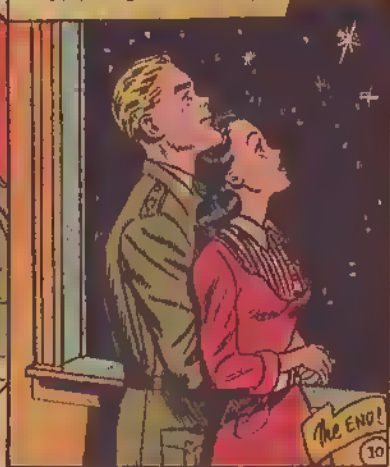
JUNE... ALIVE? OH, THANK GOD...!



JUNE, DARLING... YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT... AND WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED! WHEN I THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU, I SUDDENLY REALIZED HOW RIGHT YOU WERE... THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO LIVE AND LOVE TO THE UTMOST NOW, SO THAT WE CAN LIVE ON IN EACH OTHER'S HEARTS WHEN OUR TIME FINALLY COMES!



"YES, WE'RE MARRIED NOW... AND OUR LOVE HAS ENABLED US TO FACE THE FUTURE UNAFRAID... TILL DEATH DO US PART!"



THE END!  
10

# BLIND DATE

**B**LIND DATES CAN LEAD TO BLISS OR TO BITTERNESS-- DEPENDING ON YOU! MANY A RAPTUREOUSLY-MARRIED COUPLE FIRST MET ON SUCH A DATE--AND MANY A GIRL HAS SWORN OFF BLIND DATES ALTOGETHER, BECAUSE HER FIRST ONE WAS SUCH A TRAGIC EXPERIENCE! YOU CAN MAKE SURE THAT YOUR NEXT BLIND DATE WILL BE A HAPPY SUCCESS BY FOLLOWING THESE FEW SIMPLE SUGGESTIONS, DESIGNED TO OPEN YOUR EYES SO THAT YOU WON'T BE A BLIND FOOL ON A BLIND DATE!

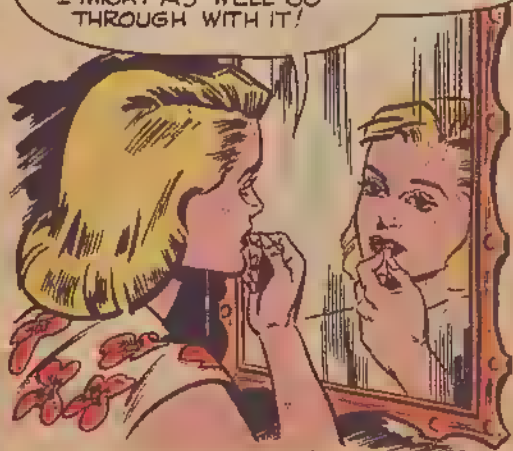
**F**IRST, LET'S FIND OUT WHAT CAN GO WRONG WITH A BLIND DATE--BY SEEING WHAT HAPPENED TO HELEN BROWN OF DETROIT, WHO WROTE US ABOUT HER UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE!

OH, HELEN, MY BOYFRIEND'S BROTHER JUST CAME INTO TOWN--AND HE ASKED ME TO FIND HIM A BLIND DATE FOR TONIGHT! WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET HIM?

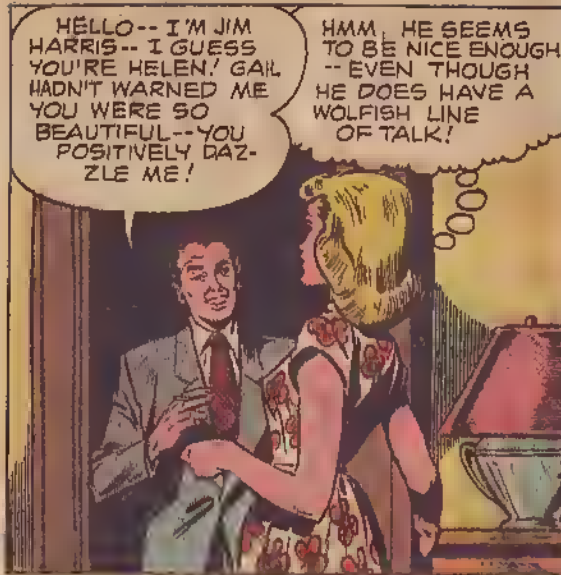
WELL, I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT, GAIL! YOUR BOYFRIEND'S A NICE FELLOW, SO HIS BROTHER OUGHT TO BE NICE ENOUGH! TELL HIM I'LL BE READY AT EIGHT!

**B**UT GETTING READY FOR THE DATE THAT NIGHT, I BEGAN HAVING DOUBTS--PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO HASTY!"

I SHOULD HAVE FOUND OUT MORE ABOUT HIM FIRST! MAYBE HE ISN'T MY TYPE--OR MAYBE HE ISN'T AS NICE AS HIS BROTHER! OH, WELL, IT'S TOO LATE TO BACK OUT NOW--I MIGHT AS WELL GO THROUGH WITH IT!



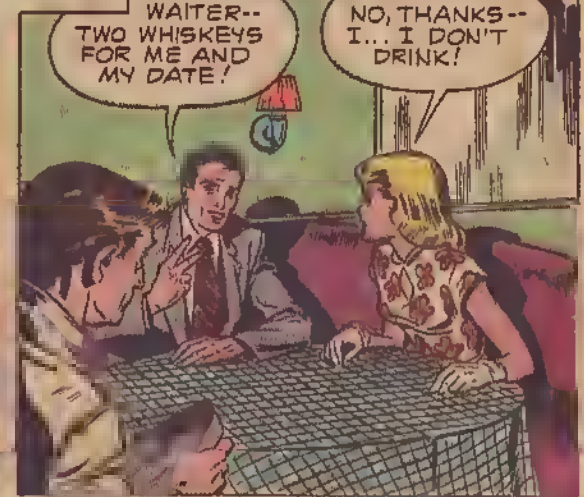




HELLO-- I'M JIM HARRIS-- I GUESS YOU'RE HELEN! GAIL HADN'T WARNED ME YOU WERE SO BEAUTIFUL--YOU POSITIVELY DAZ-ZLE ME!

HMM. HE SEEMS TO BE NICE ENOUGH --EVEN THOUGH HE DOES HAVE A WOLFISH LINE OF TALK!

"TO MY DISMAY, THE FIRST PLACE HE HEADED FOR WAS A SHADY BAR AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN!"



WAITER-- TWO WHISKEYS FOR ME AND MY DATE!

NO, THANKS-- I... I DON'T DRINK!

"MY HEART SANK AS I SAW THAT JIM DIDN'T STOP WITH JUST ONE DRINK -- BUT GOT MORE AND MORE INTOXICATED AS THE TERRIBLE EVENING WORE ON..."

YOU'RE DRINKING TOO MUCH -- PLEASE STOP IT AND TAKE ME HOME!

WANT TO STOP, HUH? GUESS THAT MEANS YOU WANT ME TO PARK!



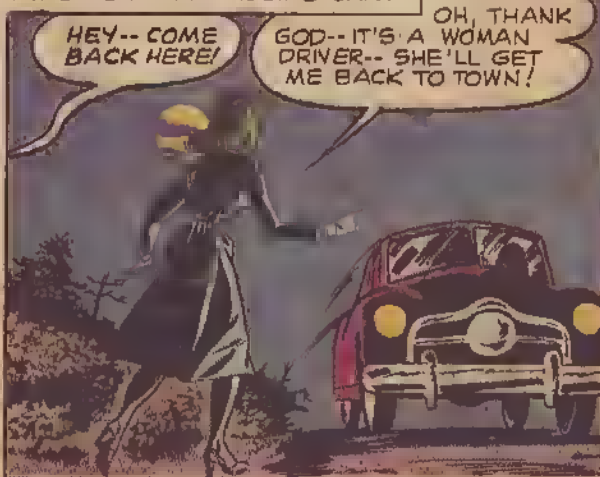
OKAY, BABY-- NOW HOW ABOUT A COUPLE O' GOODNIGHT KISSES BEFORE I TAKE YOU HOME?

NO--LET ME GO-- DON'T TOUCH ME!

FEAR AND PANIC SEEMED TO GIVE ME A STRENGTH I NEVER KNEW I POSSESSED, AND SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO ESCAPE AND FLAG DOWN A PASSING CAR!

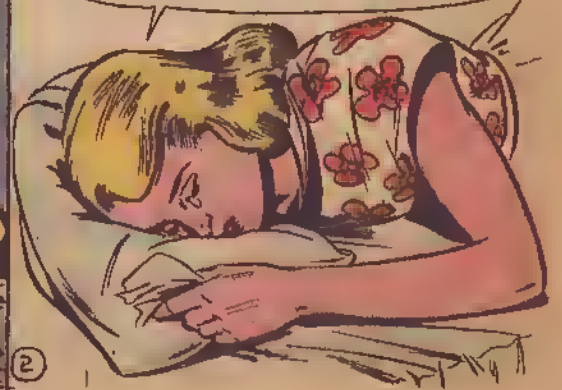
"WHEN I FINALLY GOT BACK TO THE SAFETY OF MY OWN ROOM..."

IT... IT WAS AWFUL!! I'LL NEVER LET ANYTHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN AGAIN-- I'LL NEVER GO OUT ON ANOTHER BLIND DATE-- NEVER!



HEY-- COME BACK HERE!

OH, THANK GOD-- IT'S A WOMAN DRIVER-- SHE'LL GET ME BACK TO TOWN!



9 **WHAT WAS AN** AWFUL EXPERIENCE, HELEN-- BUT ALL MEN AREN'T LIKE JIM HARRIS! BLIND DATES CAN BRING YOU CLEAN, DECENT FUN AND A CHANCE FOR ROMANCE-- IF YOU TAKE THE PROPER PRECAUTIONS TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR BLIND DATE WILL BE A DECENT DATE! HERE'S WHAT ANITA HODGES OF WASHINGTON, D.C., WROTE US ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE-- AND YOU MIGHT BE WISE TO FOLLOW ANITA'S COURSE OF ACTION!

ANITA, I THINK I KNOW JUST THE BOY FOR YOU! HE'S MY NEPHEW-- VERY GOOD-LOOKING, INTELLIGENT, AND HAS AN EXCELLENT JOB! I THINK YOU TWO WOULD MAKE A PERFECT COUPLE--

A BLIND DATE?

NOT UNTIL I KNOW MORE ABOUT HIM-- HIS EDUCATION, HIS INTERESTS, HOBBIES-- EVERYTHING!



"THEN, AFTER I'D GOTTEN ALMOST A COMPLETE CASE HISTORY OF THE FELLOW..."

I'VE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT HIM-- IS THAT ENOUGH?

WELL, HE SEEMS TO BE ALL RIGHT FROM WHAT YOU TELL ME-- AND HE'S INTERESTED IN ALMOST THE SAME THINGS I

TO PHONE ME-- SO I CAN FIND OUT WHAT HE PLANS TO DO ON THE DATE!

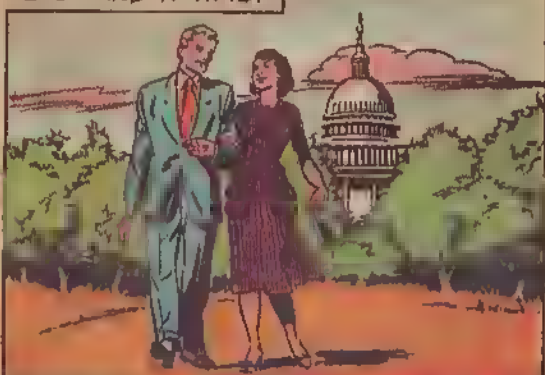


I THOUGHT WE MIGHT SPEND THE WHOLE DAY TOGETHER-- TAKE IN THE SPECIAL SESSION OF CONGRESS, THEN GO TO A MOVIE, AND THEN PERHAPS A DANCE AT THE CNIC CENTER!

MMM-- THAT SOUNDS SWEET! WE'VE GOT A DATE!

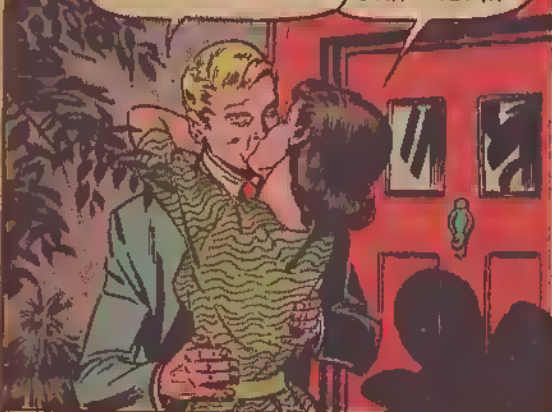


"I'D LEARNED ALL I COULD ABOUT TOM LANGELY AND HIS BACKGROUND-- BECAUSE ONLY A BLIND FOOL WOULD ACCEPT A BLIND DATE WITH SOMEONE SHE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT! WHEN I WAS CERTAIN HE WAS THE KIND OF BOY I COULD REALLY BE SURE OF, I KNEW OUR BLIND DATE WOULD BE A SUCCESS-- AND IT WAS!"

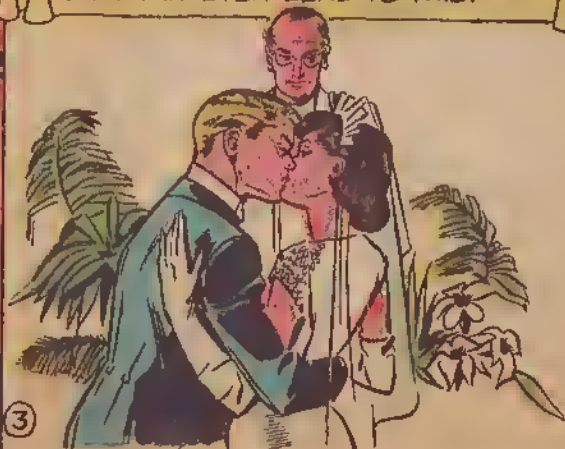


"OF COURSE, IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME, I DIDN'T LET HIM KISS ME ON THAT VERY FIRST DATE-- BUT AFTER SEEING HIM A FEW MORE TIMES, I KNEW IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT! AND MMM-- IT CERTAINLY WAS ALL RIGHT!"

SWEETHEART--! OHH-- TOM!!



YES, READER, BLIND DATES CAN BE WONDERFUL IF YOU TAKE THE PROPER SAFEGUARDS TO MAKE SURE YOUR ESCORT IS THE DECENT TYPE-- AND THEY CAN EVEN LEAD TO THIS!





# WHO WILL HE BE?

CATHY tilted her beret and pulled on her gloves. She was going around the corner to the local movies . . . she thought! Her roommates, glancing up from their manicuring tasks, exchanged a private look.

"Where are you going, Cath?" Phyllis asked.

"Movies. Good double tonight." Cathy was almost at the door.

"Don't go tonight, go tomorrow. I want to see it, too," Wanda said, cutting Cathy off at the door.

Without another word, Cathy slid out of her coat and tossed her beret on the dresser. It was no use arguing with these girls. They didn't want her to go out. Obviously, they had rigged up another of those detestable blind dates for her. They must have invited some unwilling guy over for the evening. Object . . . *romance for Cathy!*

How Cathy hated it, the planning that must go on in secret, the half-pitying remarks her roommates must make. Most of all, she hated those terrible evenings, when a guy turned up, expecting that she would fall into his arms out of gratitude!

What really happened was painful. Cathy would stammer some stupid, trite remark about the weather or a book she happened to be reading. Her sense of humor would fly out the window, scared off by the necessity of being attractive, of *making* this man want to see her again.

And always, the evening ended in miserable failure. The guy would check out early, muttering some excuse about having to be up at six in the morning. Cathy would feel that she had smiled too much and Phyllis and Wanda, shaking their heads, would

try to cheer her up. "Wasn't the right guy, anyhow!"

Now, alone in the living room, Cathy felt the old dread coming on. In her heart, she knew that she was capable of *real* romance, that she could love and be loved as every girl wished. Half-closing her eyes, Cathy allowed her fancy to drift.

Supposing that this was someone she loved, someone whose very footsteps set her heart heating faster. She would know what to say to him, she thought. He would walk towards her, his arms an invitation to romance. And she would hasten towards him, her lips parted, her eyes telling him the story of her love.

It was almost real, Cathy's vision. Conjuring up his figure, she murmured dreamily, "Darling, it's Heaven to have you with me again . . . it's been so lonely without you!"

To her horror, a masculine voice, not at all imaginary, answered, "Who's the lucky guy you're thinking of?"

It was Cathy's date, the evening's unknown! Blushing, confused, Cathy heard the introductions through a haze. Her one desire was to leave, to hide. What a fool she'd just made of herself!

Stammering, she tried to excuse herself. "I . . . I was just going out," she lied, and the lie was painfully obvious.

But the young man would not accept that. Taking Cathy's hand, gently, he refused to let her go. "Whoever it is," he said, "I'd rather you stayed here. Who knows? Perhaps you'll be saying those lovely words to *me* some day!"

Cathy's heart leaped . . . for suddenly, it seemed possible!

# HUSBAND HUNTER

NO, I DON'T WANT TO MARRY CLINT---HE DOESN'T HAVE A CENT TO HIS NAME! IT'S LLOYD I WANT---HE'S RICH ENOUGH TO GIVE ME LUXURY, AS WELL AS LOVE!



"IF CUPID EVER GAVE YOU YOUR CHOICE, READER, WOULD YOU BE CONTENT TO BE WOODED BY A WOODSMAN, A HUNTER WHOSE KISSES WERE AS WILD AND TEMPESTUOUS AS THE STORMS THAT SWIRL OVER THE MAINE NORTHWOODS---OR WOULD YOU RATHER SETTLE FOR A MAN WHO COULD OFFER YOU THE LIFE OF GLAMOR WEALTH AND ROMANCE THAT EVERY GIRL DREAMS ABOUT? WELL, THAT WAS MY PROBLEM---AND IF YOU'RE THINKING OF BECOMING A HUSBAND-HUNTER, YOU CAN PROFIT FROM MY EXPERIENCE!"

WHAT A DILAPIDATED DUMP TO SPEND A VACATION IN---IT LOOKS LIKE THE MOST RAM-SHACKLE HUNTING LODGE IN NORTHERN MAINE!

WELL, YOU CAN'T EXPECT PARADISE FOR THE DIRT-CHEAP RATES THEY CHARGE HERE! BUT SAY---JUST LOOK AT THAT GIRL---MAYBE THIS IS PARADISE!

WHAT'S A LOVELY LIKE YOU DOING UP HERE IN THE NORTHWOODS? YOU'RE NOT HERE WITH YOUR HUSBAND OR FIANCE, ARE YOU?

NO, I'M NOT MARRIED--AND I DON'T HAVE ANY FIANCE!

SWELL! IF YOU'RE UNATTACHED, YOU CAN GO OUT HUNTING WITH US THIS AFTERNOON!



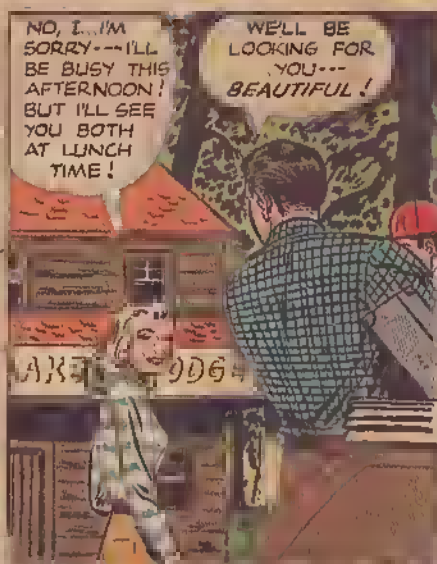


"THE FRANK ADMIRATION IN THEIR EYES MADE ME BLUSH WITH PLEASURE. AND MY HEART ROUNDED AT THE PROSPECT OF ROMANCE--UNTIL I REMEMBERED HOW ALL MY PREVIOUS PROSPECTS HAD FIZZLED OUT!"



NO, I...I'M SORRY--I'LL BE BUSY THIS AFTERNOON! BUT I'LL SEE YOU BOTH AT LUNCH TIME!

WE'LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU--- BEAUTIFUL!



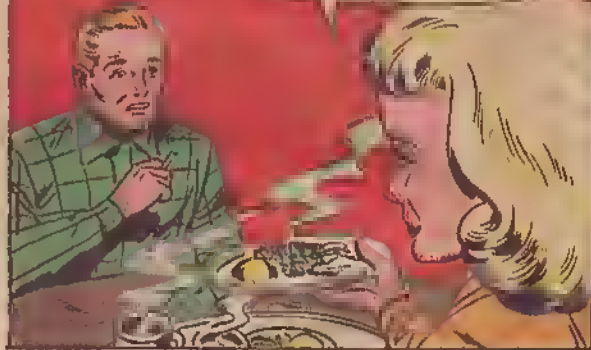
WHERE IS SHE? I WONDER WHICH TABLE SHE USUALLY SITS AT?

I DUNNO---BUT WHEREVER IT IS, THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING TO SIT!



AH, THERE YOU ARE--HEY! WHY ARE YOU SERVING US--- WHERE'S THE WAITRESS?

SHE... SHE'S SERVING YOU RIGHT NOW! YOU SEE, I'M NORA, THE LODGE OWNER'S DAUGHTER---AND I...I DO THE COOKING AND THE SERVING AND ALMOST ALL THE CHORES AROUND HERE! THAT'S WHAT I MEANT WHEN I SAID I WAS TOO BUSY TO GO HUNTING WITH YOU!



"I SAW THE LOOK OF INSTANT REJECTION IN THEIR VEILED EYES---AND I TURNED AWAY TO HIDE THE TEARS OF WRETCHEDNESS--"

WE'D BETTER FORGET ABOUT HER---SHE'S ONLY A WAITRESS AROUND HERE!

I'VE HEARD WHISPERS LIKE THAT SO MANY TIMES BEFORE---BUT IT HURTS MORE AND MORE EACH TIME!



IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY--- EVER SINCE MOTHER DIED AND I HAD TO START HELPING DAD MANAGE THE PLACE! IT'S ALWAYS BEEN DRUDGERY AND WORK---AND NEVER ANY TIME FOR LOVE AND ROMANCE! OH, IF ONLY I COULD MEET SOME MAN WHO WAS RICH AND HANDSOME---SOMEONE WHO WOULD TAKE ME AWAY FROM ALL THIS!



I OVERHEARD WHAT HAPPENED IN THE DINING ROOM, NORA--- BUT YOU SHOULDN'T CRY OVER IT! I ONLY WISH WE COULD AFFORD TO HIRE SOMEONE TO DO YOUR WORK!

I...I KNOW, DAD!



"MY TEARS HAD DRIED BY THE TIME I WENT OUT TO THE WELL IN BACK OF THE LODGE...WHERE I SUDDENLY FELT AN ARM STEAL AROUND MY WAIST, AND A PAIR OF LIPS CARESS MY CHEEK!"

OH!!



"MY HEART LEAPED WITH THE TINGLING ANTICIPATION THAT IT WAS ONE OF THE HANDSOME NEWCOMERS-- BUT MY EAGER HOPES FOR ROMANCE WERE RUDELY SHATTERED WHEN I TURNED TO SEE IT WAS ONLY CLINT MASTERS, THE LODGE'S HUNTING GUIDE!"

HELLO, NORA. HONEY---HOW ABOUT A KISS FOR THE VICTORIOUS HUNTER WHO JUST BAGGED THREE DEER ?

OH, GO AWAY, CLINT--- HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU TO STOP PESTERING ME WITH YOUR ATTENTIONS? SURE, I'VE ALWAYS LIKED YOU--BUT I'VE GOT TO BEGIN THINKING OF MY FUTURE!



YOU WELCOMED MY KISSES ONCE, DARLING---AND YOU'LL NEVER STOP WELCOMING THEM!

CLINT, NO--OHHH!



"POWERFUL ARMS SEIZED ME, SWEPT ME IRRESISTIBLY INTO THE OLD FAMILIAR RAPTURE OF HIS EMBRACE--- AND AGAINST MY WILL, I FOUND MYSELF YIELDING ONCE AGAIN BEFORE HIS IMPETUOUS CHARM!"

CLINT... OH, CLINT!

SWEETHEART, YOU KNOW WE LOVE EACH OTHER---WHEN WILL YOU MARRY ME ?



"THAT BROKE THE BEWITCHING SPELL! I BROKE AWAY, ANGRY AT MYSELF FOR HAVING LET THE LONELINESS OF MY LIFE BETRAY ME INTO ACCEPTING THE KISSES OF A MAN WHOM I COULDN'T POSSIBLY LOVE."



I'D NEVER MARRY A MERE BACKWOODS GUIDE LIKE YOU---YOU'LL NEVER MAKE ENOUGH MONEY TO GIVE A GIRL ALL THE THINGS HER HEART DESIRES! I DON'T INTEND TO LET MYSELF BE TIED DOWN FOREVER TO A LIFE OF DRUDGERY ---AND THAT'S THE ONLY KIND OF A LIFE YOU HAVE TO OFFER!

BUT NORA LISTEN---



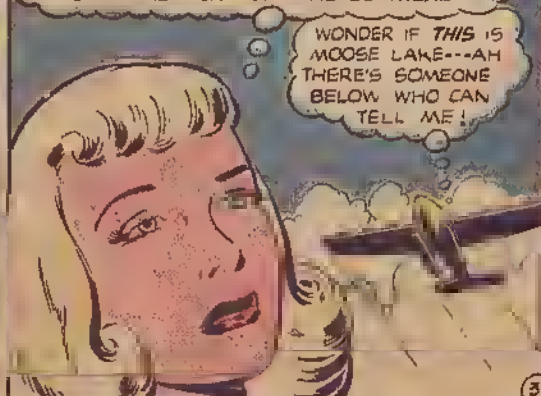
"I DIDN'T LISTEN, BUT RAN DOWN TO MY FAVORITE SPOT AT THE EDGE OF THE LAKE---WHERE I SPENT MY PITIFULLY FEW SPARE MINUTES EACH DAY DREAMING ABOUT A LIFE OF WEALTH, GLAMOR, ROMANCE!"

I...I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT TRYING TO MEET SOME WEALTHY YOUNG BACHELORS--- OR I'LL NEVER FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN TAKE ME AWAY FROM ALL THIS!



BUT THE ONLY KIND OF MEN WHO COME TO OUR LODGE ARE THOSE WHO HAD TO SCRIMP AND SAVE FOR A WHOLE YEAR TO PAY FOR A MISERABLE TWO-WEEK VACATION---THOSE WHO CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY THE RATES CHARGED BY AN EXCLUSIVE RITZY RESORT LIKE THAT REGAL LODGE ACROSS THE LAKE! IF ONLY I COULD MEET ONE OF THE RICH MEN WHO GO THERE---

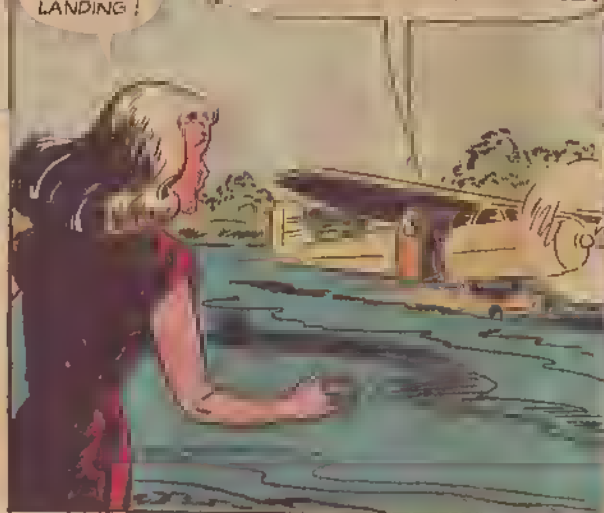
WONDER IF THIS IS MOOSE LAKE---AH THERE'S SOMEONE BELOW WHO CAN TELL ME!





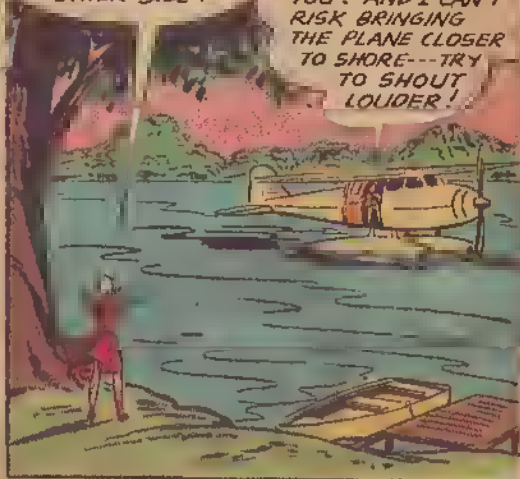
OH---THAT  
PLANE'S  
LANDING!

HELLO---IS THIS MOOSE LAKE?  
IS REGAL LODGE AROUND HERE?



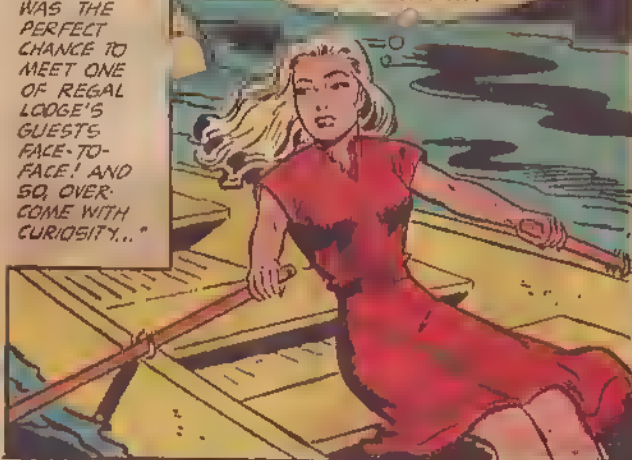
YES, THIS IS MOOSE  
LAKE---BUT REGAL  
LODGE IS ON THE  
OTHER SIDE!

CAN'T HEAR--THE  
WIND'S BLOWING  
TOO STRONG AGAINST  
YOU! AND I CAN'T  
RISK BRINGING  
THE PLANE CLOSER  
TO SHORE---TRY  
TO SHOUT  
LOUDER!



"I COULD HAVE  
SHOUTED  
LOUDER---  
BUT THIS  
WAS THE  
PERFECT  
CHANCE TO  
MEET ONE  
OF REGAL  
LODGE'S  
GUESTS  
FACE-TO-  
FACE! AND  
SO, OVER-  
COME WITH  
CURIOSITY..."

HE MIGHT BE TERRIBLY WEALTHY  
IF HE HAS HIS OWN PRIVATE PLANE---  
WONDER IF HE'S YOUNG...AND  
HANDSOME...?



"HE WAS  
YOUNG  
AND  
HANDSOME...  
AND WONDER  
OF WONDERS,  
HE WAS  
STARING  
AT ME  
WITH A  
RAPT LOOK  
OF  
UNABASHED  
ADMIRATION!"



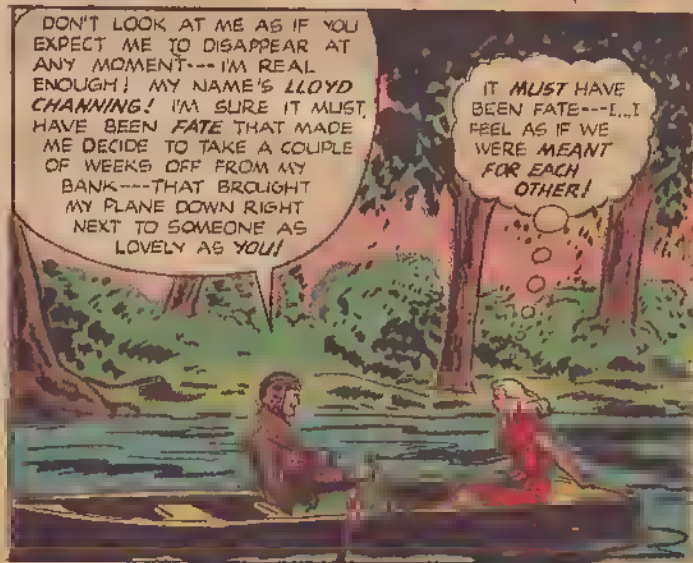
I...I'M AFRAID YOU  
LANDED ON THE  
WRONG SIDE OF  
MOOSE LAKE! YOU'RE  
RIGHT NEAR MY  
FATHER'S PLACE,  
MOOSE LAKE LODGE,  
BUT REGAL LODGE  
IS ON THE OTHER  
SIDE OF THE  
LAKE!

I THINK  
I  
LANDED  
ON THE  
RIGHT  
SIDE OF  
THE LAKE!  
I HAD  
RESERVATIONS  
AT REGAL  
LODGE---BUT  
NOW THAT I'VE  
SEEN YOU, I'M  
GOING TO STAY  
AT MOOSE LAKE  
LODGE!



DON'T LOOK AT ME AS IF YOU  
EXPECT ME TO DISAPPEAR AT  
ANY MOMENT---I'M REAL  
ENOUGH! MY NAME'S LLOYD  
CHANNING! I'M SURE IT MUST  
HAVE BEEN FATE THAT MADE  
ME DECIDE TO TAKE A COUPLE  
OF WEEKS OFF FROM MY  
BANK---THAT BROUGHT  
MY PLANE DOWN RIGHT  
NEXT TO SOMEONE AS  
LOVELY AS YOU!

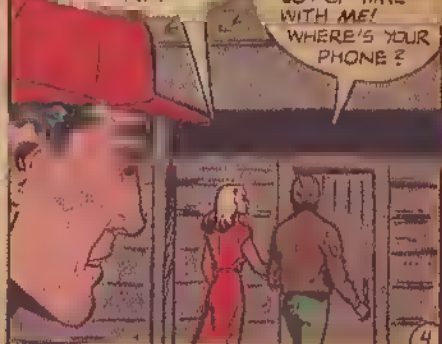
IT MUST HAVE  
BEEN FATE---I...I  
FEEL AS IF WE  
WERE MEANT  
FOR EACH  
OTHER!



"THEN, AT THE LODGE..."

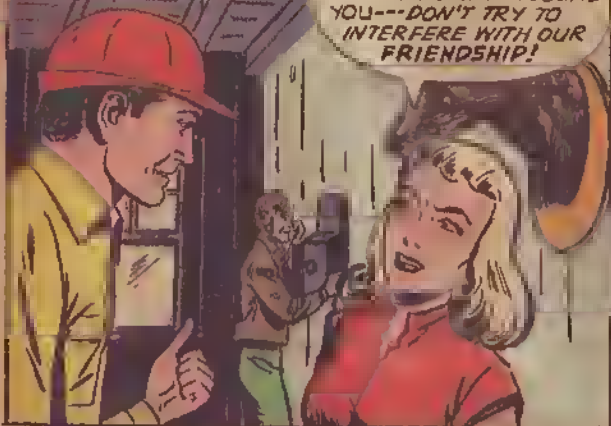
I'M SORRY, I'LL HAVE TO  
LEAVE YOU NOW---I'VE  
GOT TO PREPARE SUPPER  
FOR THE WHOLE LODGE,  
AND DO DOZENS OF  
OTHER CHORES THAT  
KEEP ME BUSY ALL  
DAY!

I'LL HAVE  
TO DO  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT THAT  
IF YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
SPEND A  
LOT OF TIME  
WITH ME!  
WHERE'S YOUR  
PHONE?



WHERE'D YOU PICK HIM UP, NORA? YOU CAN TELL HE'S A PHONEY A MILE OFF!

YOU'RE THE PHONEY-- AND A JEALOUS ONE! LLOYD CHANNING IS STAYING HERE BECAUSE HE'S INTERESTED IN ME--AND I'M WARNING YOU--DON'T TRY TO INTERFERE WITH OUR FRIENDSHIP!



"NEXT MORNING..."

THAT WAS A FORTY MILE TRIP FROM CARIBOU, MR. CHANNING---I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO ASK AT LEAST FIFTY BUCKS!

HERE'S A HUNDRED FOR YOUR TROUBLE!-- NORA, THESE ARE THE PEOPLE I HIRED OVER THE PHONE TO TAKE OVER YOUR DUTIES--- WILL A COOK, A HANDY-MAN AND A HOUSE-CLEANER BE ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU ALL THE FREE TIME YOU WANT---OR SHOULD I SEND BACK FOR MORE?



"MY HEART SCARED! WAS HE DOING ALL THIS FOR ME BECAUSE HE FELT THE SAME VIBRANT STIRRINGS OF LOVE THAT HAD SWEET MY BEING?"

YOU...YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT! THINK OF THE EXPENSE--!

I CAN THINK ONLY OF YOU! EACH MOMENT I CAN SPEND IN YOUR COMPANY IS PRICELESS TO ME--NORA!



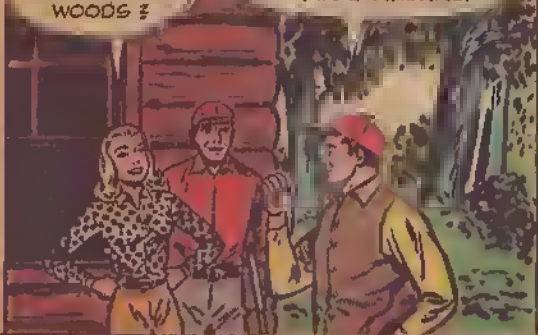
"BREED OF DRUDGERY, I AT LAST FOUND TIME FOR ROMANCE--WITH A MAN WHO COULD MAKE ALL MY LIFELONG DREAMS OF WEALTH AND GLAMOR COME GLORIOUSLY TRUE!"



"GLAT AT HAVING CAPTURED THE INTEREST OF LLOYD CHANNING, I COULDN'T HELP FLAUNTING MY TRIUMPH IN CLINT'S FACE!"

I'M GOING OUT HUNTING WITH LLOYD TODAY-- COULD YOU RECOMMEND ANY NICE, ROMANTIC SPOTS IN THE WOODS?

WELL, I CAN TAKE YOU OUT TO SOME OF THE WILD DEER TRAILS---BUT I THOUGHT THE ONLY BIG GAME YOU WERE INTERESTED IN, NORA, WAS THE RICH, HUMAN, MALE ANIMAL!



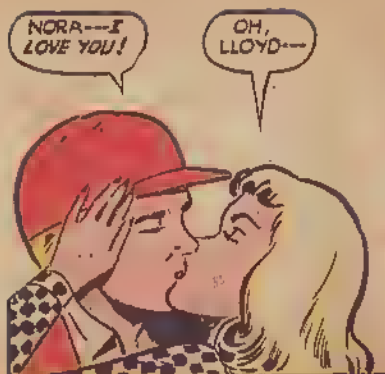
"HORRID ANGER FLARED WITHIN MY HEART AT HIS WORDS, AND I FIERCELY TOLD MYSELF THAT I WASN'T INTERESTED IN LLOYD BECAUSE OF HIS MONEY-- BUT BECAUSE HE WAS TENDER, SINCERE, LOVABLE! THEN, AS WE PLUNGED INTO THE GLOOMY DEPTHS OF THE FOREST--"

KEEP CLOSE BEHIND ME--- THIS IS DANGEROUS BEAR COUNTRY!

LET'S FOOL HIM! COME HERE-- DARLING!



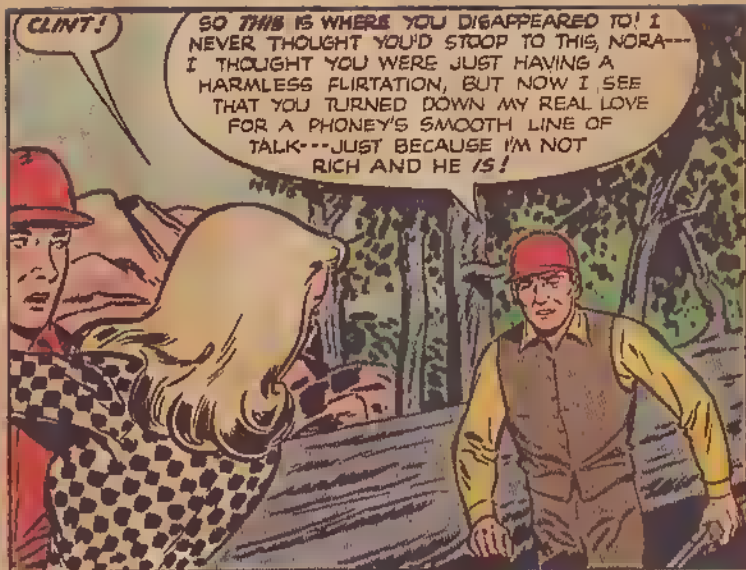




NORA---I LOVE YOU!

OH, LLOYD---

"WITH HIS LIPS TENDERLY ON MINE AND HIS WORDS OF LOVE ECHOING BLISSFULLY IN MY HEART I KNEW AT LAST THAT ALL MY DREAMS WOULD BE MINE---AS MRS. NORA CHANNING! BUT THEN..."



CLINT!

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU DISAPPEARED TO! I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D STOOP TO THIS, NORA--- I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST HAVING A HARMLESS FLIRTATION, BUT NOW I SEE THAT YOU TURNED DOWN MY REAL LOVE FOR A PHONEY'S SMOOTH LINE OF TALK---JUST BECAUSE I'M NOT RICH AND HE IS!

"I FRAMED A FURIOUS, SCATHING REPLY-- BUT THE WORDS FROZE IN MY THROAT AS I SAW A HORRIBLE FORM EMERGE FROM THE BUSHES BEHIND CLINT."



CLINT--- LOOK OUT!



"BUT IT WAS TOO LATE!"

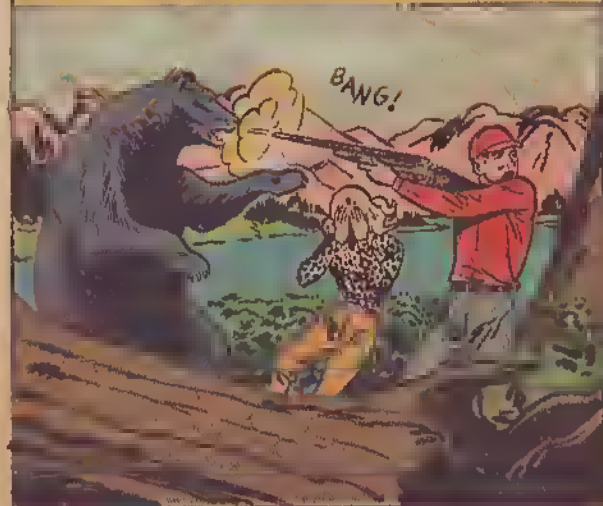
WHAM!



IT...IT'S COMING THIS WAY! CLINT, LLOYD.. HELP!

MY...MY RIFLE WAS KNOCKED OUT OF MY HANDS---SHOOT, CHANNING--- SHOOT!

"CLOSER AND CLOSER LUMBERED THE AWFUL BEAST, ITS BEADY EYES GLEAMING EVILLY! BUT THEN..."



BANG!

OH, LLOYD--- YOU KILLED IT--- YOU SAVED ME!

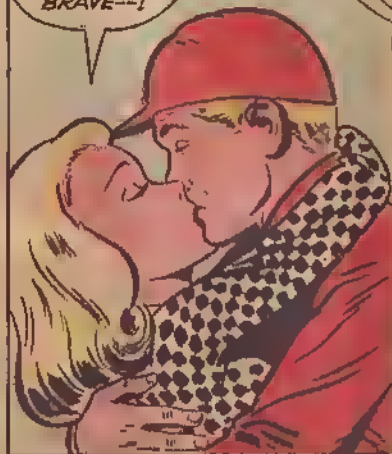


YES, DARLING---IT WAS HEADING FOR YOU AND I COULD HAVE RUN TO SAFETY, BUT I COOLLY STOOD MY GROUND AND FIRED---BECAUSE I KNEW I HAD TO SAVE YOU!

"THIS TIME, WITH HIS LIPS UPON MINE AND OUR TWO HEARTS BEATING AS ONE, I WAS CERTAIN THAT LLOYD WAS MY TRUE LOVE--FOR HADN'T HE PROVEN HIS DEVOTION AND LOYALTY BY RISKING HIS LIFE TO SAVE MINE?"

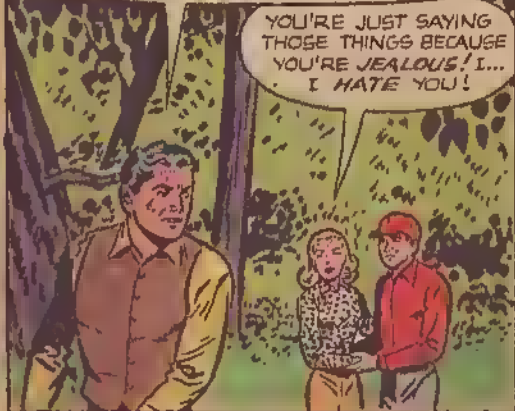
OH, DEAREST, I LOVE YOU SO ---YOU WERE SO BRAVE--!

BRAVE?--- BALONEY!



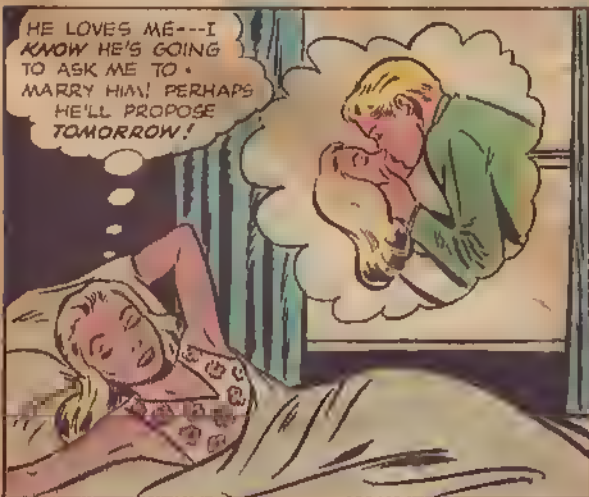
HE WAS TOO TERRIFIED TO RUN, SO HE JUST CLOSED HIS EYES AND FIRED BLINDLY! IT WASN'T BECAUSE HE LOVED YOU, BUT TO SAVE HIS COWARDLY, WORTHLESS SKIN! AND IF THAT'S THE KIND OF MAN YOU WANT, YOU CAN HAVE HIM!

YOU'RE JUST SAYING THOSE THINGS BECAUSE YOU'RE JEALOUS! I... I HATE YOU!



"I DISMISSED CLINT'S HATEFUL WORDS FROM MY MIND, AND ALL THAT NIGHT I COULD THINK ONLY OF ONE THING..."

HE LOVES ME---I KNOW HE'S GOING TO ASK ME TO MARRY HIM! PERHAPS HE'LL PROPOSE TOMORROW!



"BUT THE FIRST THING THAT GREETED ME THE NEXT MORNING WAS..."

WHERE'S MR. CHANNING? I KNOW HE'S HERE--- AND I INSIST ON SEEING MY FIANCEE!

YOUR... YOUR FIANCEE? BUT... BUT HE CAN'T BE---



"OVER AND OVER AGAIN, I TRIED TELLING MYSELF THAT IT WAS ALL SOME HORRIBLE MISTAKE---FOR LLOYD COULDN'T BE ENGAGED TO ANOTHER! BUT---"

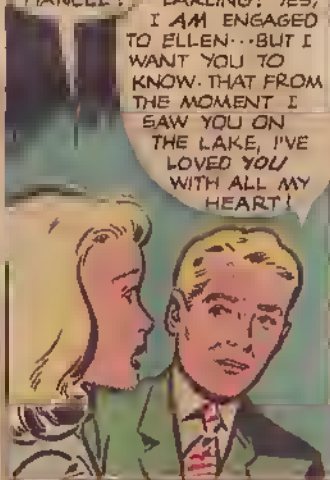
DARLING, THERE... THERE'S A WOMAN OUT FRONT WHO CLAIMS TO BE ENGAGED TO YOU---

ELLEN! HOW IN BLAZES DID SHE FIND OUT I WAS HERE?



YOU MEAN SHE IS YOUR FIANCEE?

DON'T LOOK AT ME SO ACCUSINGLY, DARLING! YES, I AM ENGAGED TO ELLEN...BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT FROM THE MOMENT I SAW YOU ON THE LAKE, I'VE LOVED YOU WITH ALL MY HEART!



BUT IF YOU REALLY LOVE ME, YOU CAN BREAK YOUR ENGAGEMENT---YOU CAN STILL MARRY ME!

NO, NORA-- I...I CAN'T!





"YOU SEE, I'M NOT REALLY RICH---I WAS POVERTY-STRICKEN BEFORE I MET ELLEN! SHE'S NOT VERY PRETTY, AS YOU SAW---BUT HER FATHER GAVE ME MONEY, AND THAT PLANE, AND A JOB IN HIS BANK IF I PROMISED TO MARRY HER! I CAN'T BEAR TO GIVE IT ALL UP AND RETURN TO POVERTY BY REFUSING TO MARRY HER NOW!"

"YOU...YOU'RE LOATHSOME, CONTEMPTIBLE--!"

"AH, THERE YOU ARE! IS THIS GIRL THE REASON WHY YOU'RE STAYING AT THIS MISERABLE HOVEL INSTEAD OF AT REGAL LODGE?"

"OF COURSE NOT, DARLING---THIS GIRL MEANS NOTHING TO ME!"

"I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT! WHEN I CALLED REGAL LODGE TO SPEAK TO YOU, AND FOUND OUT YOU WEREN'T THERE, I ~~KNEW~~ SOMETHING FUNNY WAS GOING ON! MY PRIVATE DETECTIVES DUG UP THE FACT THAT YOU'D HIRED SOME HELP FOR MOOSE LAKE LODGE---AND I DROVE UP HERE IMMEDIATELY! BUT NOW I'M NOT LETTING YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT UNTIL YOU MARRY ME!"

"YOU'RE COMING WITH ME TO THE NEAREST PREACHER---OR I'LL CALL UP MY FATHER!"

"HOW COULD I EVER HAVE EVEN WANTED TO MARRY A CONTEMPTIBLE, SPINELESS MAN LIKE THAT? AND I... I WOULD HAVE BEEN JUST AS CONTEMPTIBLE IF I'D MARRIED FOR MONEY!"

"NORA, I HEARD SOMEONE SHOUTING UP HERE---ANYTHING WRONG?"

"NO, *NOTHING'S* WRONG, DARLING---NOW THAT I REALIZE HOW I BLINDED MYSELF TO A REAL MAN'S LOVE---AND TO MY LOVE FOR YOU!"

"YES, AT LAST MY TEMPESTUOUS HEART UNDERSTOOD THAT A GIRL CAN ONLY BE HAPPY IF SHE MARRIES FOR LOVE---AND THAT THIS WAS THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD I COULD EVER LOVE!"

"TAKE IT FROM ONE WHO KNOWS, READER---LOVE IS THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS! AND EVEN THE PRIMITIVE WOODS CAN BE LIKE ADAM AND EVE'S GARDEN OF EDEN, AS LONG AS YOU'RE MARRIED TO THE ONE MAN YOU REALLY CARE FOR!"

"SWEETHEART..."

"OH, CLINT--- I LOVE YOU SO!"

...The End...

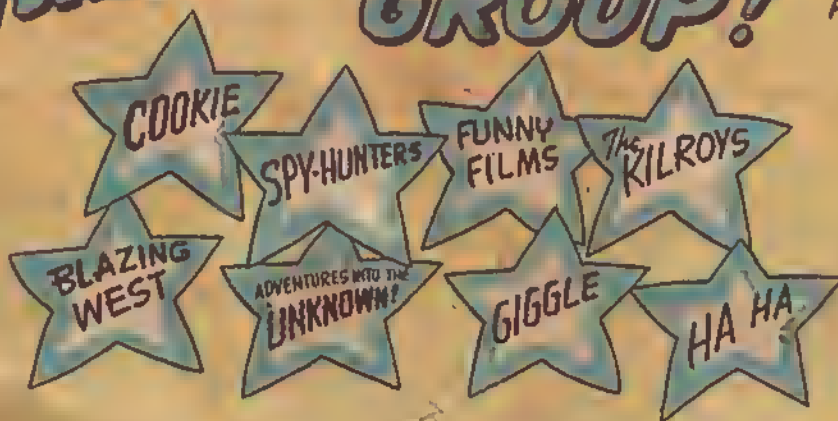
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OF LOVELORN, published Bi-monthly at Sparta, Illinois, for October 1st, 1950.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher Michel Publications, Inc., Sparta, Illinois; Editor, Richard E. Hughes, 120 West 183rd St., New York, N. Y.; Managing editor, None.; Business manager, Frederick H. Iger, 50 Beverly Road, Great Neck, L. I., N. Y.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.) Michel Publications, Inc., Sparta, Illinois; B. W. Sangor, 7 West 81st Street, New York, N. Y.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

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(Signed) RICHARD E. HUGHES, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of September, 1950.

Nat C. Cherman, Notary Public, State of New York (My commission expires March 30, 1951)



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